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UNFPA INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMME, 1996-1999

Report of the Executive Director

This report contains the proposed UNFPA intercountry programme for 1996-1999, which is composed of the interregional programme and the regional programmes for sub-Saharan Africa, the Arab States and Europe, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Table 1 on page 3 of the report provides a breakdown of the proposed allocations among these five programmes. The proposed programme is presented according to the three core areas approved by the Executive Board in decision 95/15: reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health; population and development strategies; and advocacy. Proposed activities in each of the core areas are given for the interregional programme and for the regional programmes. A review of the Fund's intercountry programme for 1992-1995 is provided in the addendum to this report.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. As stated by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in resolution 1763 (LIV) of 1973 and reaffirmed by ECOSOC in resolution 1986/7 of 1986 and by the Governing Council in decision 93/27, UNFPA's aims and purposes are, inter alia: "to build up, on an international basis . . . the knowledge and the capacity to respond to national, regional, interregional, and global needs in the population and family planning fields" and "to promote awareness, both in developed and in developing countries, of the social, economic and environmental implications of national and international population problems".

2. An important objective of the proposed intercountry programme is to strengthen the ability of developing countries to implement the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), and especially the principal goals of providing universal access to reproductive health and family planning services; reducing infant, child and maternal mortality; providing access to primary education for all girls and boys; and achieving gender equity and equality.

3. In order to implement the Programme of Action, UNFPA is currently involved in a rigorous consultative process to develop new strategic approaches for its programme. UNFPA will focus its support at all levels, including the intercountry level, on: (a) reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health (hereinafter referred to as reproductive health); (b) population and development strategies; and (c) advocacy.

4. As with its predecessors, the proposed intercountry programme is based on the realization that certain activities are relevant to and concern all regions of the world and that undertaking such activities at the interregional or regional levels is both more efficient and more cost-effective than undertaking them at the national level. The primary concern of these interregional and regional activities is to meet the needs of developing countries for information, research, new technologies and protocols, training materials, technical guidelines and standards, and research methodologies in the area of population and development.

5. Under the proposed programme, UNFPA would continue to support important activities that have been initiated and fruitfully developed and implemented in collaboration with other United Nations agencies and with governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) during earlier cycles of the programme (see, e.g., the addendum to this report). These include the Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements and Logistics Management Needs in Developing Countries in the 1990s; the Global Programme of Training in Population and Sustainable Development; the WHO Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (WHO/HRP); and the International Committee for Contraceptive Research. The Fund would also continue to support numerous activities at the interregional and regional levels in the area of technical support and dissemination of population analyses, many of which are detailed in this report. The Fund's Technical Support Services (TSS) and Country Support Teams (CSTs) would continue to play an important role in adapting and applying the outputs of projects at the interregional and regional levels to the national level (see document DP/1995/40, which is also being submitted to the Executive Board at its third regular session of 1995).

6. A priority of the intercountry programme would be to assist activities aimed specifically at improving the status of women and facilitating their empowerment. Gender concerns would thus be mainstreamed into all programme activities, the ultimate goal being to integrate such concerns fully into all population and development activities. Therefore, gender is treated not as a separate sector in the proposed programme but as a cross-sectoral issue cutting through all the proposed activities.

7. Care has been taken in the proposed intercountry programme to build on the lessons learned in previous programmes and to incorporate the results of reviews and evaluations conducted in the 1992-1995 programme cycle. As in the case of earlier cycles, most of the activities of the proposed programme would be implemented by other organizations, including United Nations agencies and organizations as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations. UNFPA would monitor and evaluate activities at both the interregional and regional levels, in compliance with standard UNFPA procedures, including mid-cycle reviews, annual thematic evaluations and programme audits.

8. The Executive Director proposes to allocate $175.0 million (15.8 per cent of programmable resources) for the intercountry programme during 1996-1999. Of this amount, $102.0 million would be provided for the interregional programme and $73.0 million for the regional programmes: $28.0 million for sub-Saharan Africa, $12.0 million for the Arab States and Europe, $19.0 million for Asia and the Pacific, and $14.0 million for Latin America and the Caribbean. Table 1 shows the proposed distribution of funds for the interregional and regional programmes by programme area.

Table 1. UNFPA INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMME BY PROGRAMME AREA, 1996-1999
($ millions)

Programmes	Programme areas			
	Reproductive health	Population & development strategies	Advocacy	Total
Interregional	45.0	28.0	29.0	102.0
Regional				
Sub-Saharan Africa	14.0	7.0	7.0	28.0
Arab States and Europe	7.0	4.0	1.0	12.0
Asia and the Pacific	10.0	6.0	3.0	19.0
Latin America and the Caribbean	8.0	4.0	2.0	14.0
Subtotal	39.0	21.0	13.0	73.0
Grand total	84.0	49.0	42.0	175.0

II. REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

A. Interregional programme

9. The 1992-1995 intercountry programme gained much valuable experience and had achievements in several areas, including: (a) contraceptive research and development, and the introduction and adaptation of new contraceptives; (b) increased awareness of adolescent reproductive health needs; (c) more focused attention on high levels of maternal mortality and morbidity; (d) development of guidelines and standards for family planning and contraceptive technology; and (e) support for technical cooperation among developing countries.

10. The objectives of the proposed interregional programme in the area of reproductive health are: (a) to conduct research on and develop new and improved methods of fertility regulation, and to continue to assure that such methods are safe; (b) to develop guidelines, methodologies and operational approaches to strengthen reproductive health programmes and services; (c) to develop and test feasible and cost-effective reproductive health interventions for application at the primary health-care level; and (d) to promote the concept of reproductive health as an overall approach to the health and well-being of women, men and adolescents. Two of the specific goals of the ICPD Programme of Action have guided the formulation of this programme, namely: "all countries should strive to make accessible through the primary health-care system, reproductive health to all individuals of appropriate ages as soon as possible, and no later than the year 2015" (para. 7.6); and "countries should strive to effect significant reductions in maternal mortality by the year 2015" (para. 8.21).

11. Achieving these goals means developing, introducing and disseminating practical and cost-effective interventions that will have a positive impact on reproductive health at an affordable price. These include new technologies, new operational approaches, new managerial strategies, and improvements in the training of service providers.

1. Developing guidelines, methodologies and operational approaches

12. A major goal of the interregional programme is to facilitate the design of community-specific and appropriate programmes to address the reproductive health needs of clients in developing countries. UNFPA would therefore continue to support the development of guidelines, methodologies and approaches for: (a) assessing reproductive health needs; (b) analysing the reproductive health situation, including human resources, infrastructure and management; and (c) developing reproductive health indicators and techniques for monitoring and evaluating both quantitative and qualitative achievements of programmes.

13. New and revised technical guidelines will deal with specific aspects of reproductive health, such as family planning methods; maternal care; the prevention and management of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including reproductive tract infections and HIV/AIDS; management of the complications of abortion; prevention and appropriate management of infertility; and prevention, early detection and management of other reproductive health conditions, such as breast cancer.

14. As part of the proposed intercountry programme, UNFPA would continue its support for activities under the Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements and Logistics Management Needs in Developing Countries in the 1990s by funding the Initiative's Secretariat, consisting of two professional and one support staff, over the next four years. This proposal is being made in response to the Executive Board's request as contained in paragraph 2 of decision 95/21 and follows its decision 94/19 which authorized the continuation of the work of the Secretariat, through the use of project funds, for a two-year period. (For a discussion of the proposal for the continuation of the Global Initiative as well as an outline of the objectives, modalities and procedures for a possible future global contraceptive arrangement, see document DP/1995/62.)

15. The interregional programme would work to improve reproductive health services for women in refugee camps, internally displaced persons, and returnees through the institution of an Office of the Emergency Relief Adviser. A symposium conducted in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 1995, inter alia, defined basic reproductive health needs for women in these situations, examined ways and means of assessing their reproductive health needs, and proposed appropriate instruments for developing clinical and counselling services to meet identified needs. The proposed programme would support the cost of running a secretariat for the Office of the Emergency Relief Adviser consisting of one professional and a secretary to manage the implementation of these activities.

16. Several other new operational approaches are foreseen under the proposed programme. These include, for example, research on the extent to which emergency obstetric care can be incorporated in primary health-care service delivery and the development of new approaches to involve men, particularly young men and male adolescents, fully in reproductive health efforts. Initiatives begun under the previous intercountry programme to identify and develop feasible and effective approaches to meet the reproductive health needs of adolescents would be continued in the new programme. UNFPA would continue its support for strengthening community participation and self-reliance in the development of reproductive health information and services through NGOs such as, for example, the Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning, Inc. (JOICFP).

2. Training

17. In the area of training, UNFPA would continue to support the development of curricula, methodologies and prototype materials in reproductive health that are designed to improve the technical and communication skills of service providers. A collateral activity would be to continue to maintain and update the database of institutions offering training in reproductive health.

18. A new UNFPA-supported programme to promote South-South cooperation has as an initial objective that of strengthening the capacities of four countries -- Mexico, Indonesia, Thailand and Tunisia -- to provide assistance to other countries in the area of reproductive health. The countries selected have shown impressive progress in the implementation of their own population programmes. Activities considered for funding under this programme include: increasing the capacity of the four countries to train trainees from other developing countries; helping training institutions to make

educational support and other information materials available to others; promoting the production and marketing of reproductive health-related equipment; and organizing exchange programmes to assess the role of the private sector in reproductive health activities.

3. Research, development and testing

19. Another key activity over the next four years would be to continue to support research and development of new and improved methods of fertility regulation. Specific methods being investigated include female-controlled barrier methods, methods for men and for adolescents, and contraceptives with anti-STD and anti-HIV properties. To this end, UNFPA would continue support to WHO/HRP, which is co-sponsored by UNFPA along with WHO, the World Bank and UNDP. UNFPA would also continue support to the International Committee for Contraceptive Research at The Population Council.

20. UNFPA would provide limited support for ongoing research on other reproductive health interventions such as the development of cost-effective diagnostic tests for symptomatic and asymptomatic STDs and for the development of new, cost-effective methods to prevent and treat STDs and reproductive tract infections.

21. UNFPA will continue to support HIV/AIDS prevention activities by incorporating them into ongoing information and service delivery projects at the country level. At the global level, UNFPA will continue as a co-sponsor of the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and proposes to provide the joint programme with support for two professional staff, including their duty travel, and for such information dissemination activities as the biennial report on HIV/AIDS, which UNFPA had been supporting at the HIV/AIDS Task Force, the predecessor of the joint programme.

4. Advocacy

22. In promoting the application of reproductive health as an overall approach to the health and well-being of women, men and adolescents, UNFPA will continue to work with many partners in the area of advocacy. These include WHO, the International Federation of Gynecologists and Obstetricians (FIGO), the Commonwealth Medical Association (CMA), the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), the Task Force for Child Survival and Development, and The Population Council. UNFPA support would include funding workshops, conferences, publications and information dissemination activities.

23. UNFPA will promote women's rights within the context of reproductive rights through collaborative activities with UNIFEM. The Fund will support UNIFEM's initiatives in the areas of human rights, including working to combat violence against women, eliminate traditional practices affecting the health of women and children, and eliminate discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS. The collaboration between the two organizations will include work on revising and updating existing reporting guidelines to include indicators that reflect an analysis of reproductive health as a human rights issue. This will include helping to improve the capacity of selected NGOs to monitor the implementation of international agreements, particularly the Convention on the Elimination of All

Forms of Discrimination against Women. UNFPA would also support a meeting of researchers, policy makers and advocates of women's rights whose aim would be to develop a comprehensive strategy and women's rights programme, including areas for research, to complement the Fund's reproductive health and women's empowerment goals.

5. IEC activities in support of reproductive health

24. In the framework of reproductive health, UNFPA's support for information, education and communications (IEC) interventions will be guided by the following objectives: (a) to disseminate research findings on how IEC activities can best support reproductive health programmes; (b) to develop and disseminate new methodologies for communicating with key audiences, including adolescents, about sexuality and reproduction; (c) to exchange experiences, materials and human resources among training programmes in various regions of the world; and (d) to strengthen the intellectual base for population education by working with UNESCO in the faculties of education of key universities around the world.

25. UNFPA will collaborate with organizations such as WHO/HRP and The Population Council to develop and disseminate IEC audience research protocols, training guides and research findings. The Fund will also collaborate with WHO to spread methodologies developed in the previous programme cycle for analysing adolescent attitudes and for informing adolescents about reproductive health and sexuality. A series of training activities and publications will facilitate the transfer of knowledge to the country level. UNFPA will collaborate closely with national ministries, national and international NGOs and other organizations, such as UNICEF, that deal directly with adolescents. The Fund will support IEC activities aimed at mobilizing young people to serve as peer educators and advocates of reproductive health and will continue to assist appropriate agencies and organizations in developing population education materials to meet the needs of rural youth.

B. Regional programmes

26. The regional programmes proposed in the area of reproductive health will consist primarily of three types of activities: training, research, and advocacy. There is a need to reorient all training to a reproductive health approach, and many of the regional training centres will be contributing to the development of prototype curricula, training materials and new teaching methods. Research will focus on the use of standard protocols that, when applied in a limited number of countries, can generate lessons for the region or subregion as a whole. Advocacy activities will concentrate on both creating a better understanding of the concept of reproductive health and putting that concept into practice. Finally, many approaches developed at the global level are now ready for application at the country level, including, for example, new approaches to adolescent reproductive health. However, these global models will need to be adapted to the specific environment in which they will be applied.

1. Sub-Saharan Africa

27. The primary contribution of the 1992-1995 Africa regional programme in the area of reproductive health lay in increasing the availability of clinical personnel trained in family planning

service delivery. Relatively little support was provided to reproductive health research. Reviews of the past regional programme as well as appraisals of country programmes point to the need to reorient regional clinical training to a broader reproductive health focus and to strengthen the courses for trainers and managers on certain topics.

28. The previous regional programme began activities in IEC through regional training for English speakers at the Kenya Institute of Mass Communication (KIMC) in Nairobi. Given the centrality of IEC to the success of reproductive health programmes in the region, experience suggests several modifications in future regional activities. First, regional training should provide skills required for promotion of reproductive health services rather than for family planning alone and should also devote greater attention to concepts and techniques for mobilizing community support. Second, a comparable programme should be developed for French and Portuguese speakers. Third, support should be provided to conduct the social research required to make IEC and reproductive health services culturally responsive and acceptable. Fourth, a more systematic approach to the production and dissemination of mass media IEC materials should be explored. Finally, the Fund needs to conduct regional seminars and workshops aimed at speeding up the introduction of population education and family life education into school systems and at sharing appropriate materials. The aim of these efforts would be to assist countries in meeting the objectives of the ICPD Programme of Action concerning access to reproductive health services, in tailoring such services to African needs and in promoting sustainability of service delivery networks and the installation of required management systems.

29. Training. To help implement these modifications, UNFPA would support the training of trainers at the regional level in reorienting clinical skills to cover reproductive health as well as family planning. One possible site for such a regional centre would be the Mauritius Institute of Health, which could accommodate both English and French speakers. Reproductive health training in Portuguese would be strengthened and supported on a rotating basis among the five African lusophone countries. Some key management dimensions that cut across countries, and thus justify regional training, include the need to improve the quality of services; develop services attractive to males as well as females; enhance supervision; strengthen logistics management; and improve the coordination of government, NGO and private-sector efforts. UNFPA would support management training with partners such as the Centre for African Family Studies (CAFS), the Centre for Applied Research on Population and Development (CERPOD), and Laval and Montreal Universities, which would transfer their courses to an appropriate site in West Africa. As a part of the effort to include grassroots NGOs and community-based organizations, UNFPA would support special training for regional networks of such organizations that have relatively little management experience.

30. The Fund would continue to provide assistance for regional training in IEC in programme management, strategy formulation, audience research and message creation, as well as in the development and testing of materials. The curricula at the two centres expected to continue to host such training -- KIMC in Nairobi and the Centre for Communications and Research Studies (CERCOM) in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire -- would be structured to promote reproductive health rather than family planning alone. In addition to the use of CST members, the programme would encourage the use of staff in these institutes for conducting specialized courses at the country level.

31. Research. The design of reproductive health services, and of IEC and advocacy efforts, in sub-Saharan Africa needs to be based on, for example, more extensive research on traditional practices such as female genital mutilation; on attitudes affecting receptivity to reproductive health; on use of traditional communications systems; and on reactions to various message presentations. The regional programme therefore would support such organizations as the Pan African Association of Anthropologists and the Council for Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) in these areas of research. UNFPA would also support multi-country operations research on such issues as the impact of cost recovery on use of services and the effectiveness of different logistics modalities. The Fund would also collaborate with WHO and the World Bank in the Better Health for Africa initiative, which will be assessing national health systems.

2. Arab States and Europe

Arab States

32. While there have been significant improvements in the health status of the population in the Arab States, maternal and infant morbidity and mortality remain unacceptably high in many countries, particularly among disadvantaged socio-economic groups in poor rural, urban and peri-urban areas. There are, in addition, rising concerns about the poor knowledge of and the extremely limited information on women's reproductive morbidity, including STDs, reproductive tract infections, uterine prolapse and HIV/AIDS.

33. In many countries of the region, the information systems and skills required to adequately forecast the needs for basic drugs, contraceptives and equipment for reproductive health are often inadequate, as are supply and distribution systems. In addition, in most cases there is no established system to monitor the performance and to assess the impact of reproductive health services and programmes. Institutional capacity at national and regional levels for training service delivery staff in reproductive health is weak to non-existent, in particular in the least developed countries.

34. The involvement of communities, including women's groups and NGOs, in adapting health and reproductive health services to the needs of these communities has not been systematically encouraged. This has led to low awareness, especially among the poorer, less-educated segments of the population, of the actions that they could take themselves to improve their health status, including their reproductive health.

35. Training. In order to strengthen the management and improve the quality of reproductive health services and programmes, UNFPA would assist in conducting situation analyses of reproductive health in the region, including investigation of reproductive morbidity, through the organization of a series of regional training workshops. The situation analyses produced would be used to help develop national action plans for improving the management of reproductive health programmes. The data collected would help in establishing and developing management information systems (MIS) at the country level. The Population Council's Regional Office in Cairo, Egypt, would implement the project.

36. A regional training programme for trainers in the management of reproductive health programmes would be developed under the proposed programme. This training programme would include modules on the reproductive health approach within the framework of primary health care; the development and application of a management information system; logistics and supply management; and techniques in client/service-provider interaction.

37. UNFPA would continue its assistance to the International Centre for Population and Research at Al-Azhar University in Cairo in order to reinforce the Centre's crucial role in ensuring that IEC materials and curricula are sensitive to and reflect an Islamic perspective. UNFPA would also encourage collaboration between Al-Azhar and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) in Morocco to ensure a larger and more effective dissemination and integration of materials produced at Al-Azhar in training programmes in the Arab States.

38. Research. UNFPA would support the further analysis of existing data from, for example, the Pan Arab Project for Child Development (PAPCHILD) and the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) in order to better understand the underlying causes of the gap between the knowledge and use of modern contraception in the Arab States; the sociocultural determinants of Arab men's attitudes and behaviours vis-à-vis family planning and women's reproductive health; and the reasons why the reproductive health needs of adolescents are not being met.

39. Advocacy. UNFPA would continue to support advocacy activities for reproductive health through a number of channels, including the International NGO Working Group on Refugee Women, which advocates the culturally appropriate treatment of refugee women in the Arab world, including their access to adequate reproductive health services.

Europe

40. In general, the technical assistance provided through the 1992-1995 regional programme turned out to be especially important for countries with economies in transition. One of the lessons learned was that, given the similarity of their problems in the area of population, these countries can be reached effectively through regional activities. Such activities would therefore continue to reinforce and complement country activities during the course of the proposed programme.

41. Contraceptive prevalence rates in the countries with economies in transition remain very low, and induced abortion is still the principal means of fertility regulation and reduction. In some countries, the lack of sex education in the presence of changing social and moral values has led to an increase in teen-age pregnancies. Many countries report increasing rates of STDs, including HIV infection. There is also a lack of research on women's reproductive health status. In addition, many countries still lack a reliable database on reproductive health and related issues.

42. Training. Under the proposed programme, four regional training courses for trainers would be organized yearly at the University Medical School of Debrecen, Hungary, to train medical and paramedical personnel from the countries with economies in transition in reproductive health service

delivery, quality of care and counselling skills. In addition, UNFPA would continue to collaborate with and provide support to WHO and pertinent international NGOs in organizing customized training workshops and seminars.

43. Research. UNFPA would support regional research to assist the countries of central and eastern Europe and the newly independent states in shifting from abortion to contraception as the principal method of family planning. Further assistance would be provided to the Population Activity Unit of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) to assist the countries with economies in transition in conducting an in-depth analysis and research programme based on existing fertility and family survey data and a limited number of reproductive health surveys. The findings of the surveys would be widely disseminated and used for formulating reproductive health policies and programmes.

3. Asia and the Pacific

44. The Asia and Pacific regional programme in the area of reproductive health is aimed at meeting regional needs in training, research and advocacy in a cost-effective manner. After having assessed what these needs are, the strategy would be to identify the appropriate mechanisms to address such needs, to adapt methodologies developed at the global level to the regional and country level, and to strengthen the capacities of the institutions that undertake these tasks.

45. Training. There is a continuing need in the Asia and Pacific region to train health-care professionals in the delivery of reproductive health services in the context of the primary health-care systems, including training in quality of care, family planning counselling, IEC, safe delivery and post-natal care, and detection of STDs and HIV/AIDS. Medical practitioners also need to be continually provided with updated information. A regional NGO, the Asia and Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, has been identified as a suitable institution for carrying out this training.

46. The issue of quality of care is a major focus for many countries in the region, especially in countries that have "mature" population programmes. Progress towards improving quality of care will be achieved through regional workshops where participating countries can assess, diagnose and prepare action plans to improve quality at the national level. These regional workshops will be organized in collaboration with such organizations as the International Council on Management of Population Programmes (ICOMP).

47. There is a critical need to enhance the role of national NGOs in efforts to extend the outreach of population programmes. UNFPA plans to support activities to assess the capacities of these NGOs, as well as to examine their objectives and strategies, in order to develop action plans to strengthen the delivery of reproductive health programmes and to help empower women. In order to promote partnership with national NGOs in efforts to enhance sustainable, community-based reproductive health programmes, UNFPA would seek to strengthen local networks and women's organizations through support to management training, making use of the expertise provided by such regional training institutions as ICOMP and the Indian Institute of Health Management Research.

48. Research. A main concern of UNFPA's programme in reproductive health is the question of gender relations. UNFPA would seek the assistance of agencies, universities and research institutions to conduct sociocultural research on the effects of gender relations on family planning programmes. UNFPA's interregional programme has supported research activities in the reproductive health needs of adolescents for many years. The methodologies in education and counselling, training curricula, and service delivery guidelines that the programme has helped to develop would be adapted to countries in the Asia and Pacific region. UNFPA would identify an appropriate international NGO to strengthen advocacy work in the area of gender relations and to implement these activities.

49. Advocacy. UNFPA would support awareness-creation and regional information activities to promote greater access to the widest range of safe and effective family planning methods. Further, IEC efforts would address such priority concerns as adolescent health, STDs and HIV/AIDS, male involvement, and gender equality. The Regional Clearing House on Population Education and Communication based at UNESCO's regional office in Bangkok would continue to receive support for this work. Additionally, assistance would be provided to such organizations as JOICFP to adapt and distribute IEC materials aimed at strengthening the delivery of reproductive health services at the community level.

4. Latin America and the Caribbean

50. Reproductive health care is at the centre of the regional programme for Latin America and the Caribbean. The immediate objectives of the programme, to be achieved by the end of 1999, are: (a) to clarify and promote the concept of reproductive health across countries so as to strengthen national programmes; (b) to study the existing institutional arrangements for reproductive health care services in the countries of the region and to recommend appropriate organizational restructuring that would permit the most effective and efficient provision of such services; (c) to gain knowledge of how national programmes respond to the needs of women and adolescents and to make recommendations to improve them; and (d) to support innovative multi-country action projects to permit the countries of the region to benefit from the exchange of experiences and knowledge. The strategy to address these concerns will favour the involvement of NGOs and grassroots groups, particularly women's and youth organizations. Collaboration with key partners in the United Nations system, in particular with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) of WHO, will be looked at in the light of the ICPD to ensure that cooperative activities help clarify and promote the concept of reproductive health.

51. Research. A narrow range of contraceptive methods is used in most of the countries of the region, and in several countries there is a very high use of surgical contraception. This has led to a generalized but unsubstantiated perception of wrongdoing regarding women's health and rights. A regional project to understand why women resort to surgical contraception is designed to yield the information needed to undertake a regional education and information campaign and, at the country level, to support the method mix that best meets users' preferences. This would entail providing adequate training to health professionals in providing these methods.

52. Regional and subregional evaluations of ongoing reproductive health programmes supported by IPPF, which were started during the previous programme, would continue. In conjunction with reproductive health services provided under Ministries of Health, complementary studies would be undertaken of NGO programmes addressing the reproductive health needs of women's and other groups, including needs in the areas of sexual health and HIV/AIDS prevention. The results would assist national NGOs in implementing service delivery programmes.

53. Training. Within the normative framework set by WHO/PAHO, curricula and teaching methodologies would be reoriented towards a comprehensive reproductive health approach by twinning less-developed teaching centres in the region with more advanced centres. The regional programme would support the conduct of situational analyses in the possible recipient countries as well as studies of the areas in which the countries offering their services have the greatest comparative advantages.

54. Advocacy. The regional programme would take advantage of economies of scale by encouraging the sharing of materials across groups of countries and the use of mass media. The programme would support the development of IEC strategies and materials, such as soap operas and public-service television clips, for use in policy support and to create demand for reproductive health services. IEC activities in support of reproductive health would address the needs of special population groups across the region, including working with the ILO to reach both men and women workers and with Advocates for Youth to monitor youth programmes and improve evaluation techniques.

III. POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

A. Interregional programme

55. The ICPD Programme of Action has increased the demand for statistical data and extended the scope and coverage needed. The implications are far-reaching. There is an urgent need to ensure that currently available information is valid, reliable and timely, but there is also a demand for data in a whole range of new substantive areas, such as reproductive health, empowerment of women, and gender equity, among others. There is a need for data at subnational levels as well. Technological changes also have far-reaching implications for the collection, processing, dissemination and utilization of data.

56. Effective policy formulation requires a sound knowledge base concerning the links between population and development as well as the transmission of this knowledge to policy makers. New but rather tentative investigations indicate that population growth may be detrimental to economic growth and development. There is a need for better understanding of the relationships in question, especially in light of new development paradigms that put a high premium on sustainability, carrying capacity and environmental accounting.

57. Over the last decade or so a considerable number of developing countries have achieved important reductions in both mortality and fertility levels. The consequences of these demographic changes are potentially profound, and their social and economic implications must be fully understood in order to help other developing countries anticipate any negative implications.

1. Research and development of methodologies

58. UNFPA would provide support for developing methodologies for monitoring and assessing reproductive health programmes, once the components of the concept of reproductive health are clearly defined. These methods and techniques would entail developing procedures for combining existing data from different sources and from different locations and then disseminating the combined information. The new indicators that are developed would thus reflect the social and cultural conditions of many different countries. UNFPA has already initiated preliminary activities to establish a global framework for assessing and monitoring reproductive health activities. Efforts would be made to expand the applicability of the survey methodology to measure reproductive health variables in conjunction with other statistical information systems such as vital registration records.

59. The Fund would support the development of appropriate manuals for different types of data collection activities and would assist countries in adapting these manuals to suit their specific needs. This would include developing and testing instruments and protocols, and training national staff accordingly. This programme in reproductive health surveys and analysis would be implemented with the assistance of internationally recognized academic institutions, research centres, NGOs involved in reproductive health and relevant United Nations agencies and organizations.

60. The Fund would continue to promote the development and use of new technologies in data collection, processing and dissemination. An interregional programme would be established to cover different aspects of methodological development, such as the use of modern satellite and electronic technology in census and survey methodologies, and to continually assess available software packages for population data processing so as to be able to recommend the optimal system to developing countries. These activities would be carried out by suitable national or international institutions (preferably from developing countries) or by United Nations agencies and organizations.

61. In the area of global data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination, UNFPA would build on past achievements, supporting the efforts of organizations such as the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSTAT) and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women to compile and update databases on gender, population and development and to develop indicators that can be used at regional and national levels to monitor changes in the status of women.

62. During the previous intercountry programme, UNFPA began to address the role that population policies play in economic and social development. In the proposed programme, global macro- and micro-level research will focus on population-economic linkages, primarily on those that have hitherto received insufficient attention. These include, among others, the effects of population growth and high fertility on children's and women's education and health; the implications for poverty and income distribution of rapid population growth; and the relations between population growth, sustainable economic development and the environment. In this programme of research, efforts will be made to link national development research institutions and distinguished institutions from other regions in collaborative research activities.

63. Another research area with important implications for population priorities and strategies concerns the determination of key factors affecting the demand for family planning services. UNFPA would support studies into the relative importance of socio-economic factors (e.g., education) vis-à-vis programming factors (e.g., IEC activities) in determining the level of demand for reproductive health services. Especially important in formulating and implementing population policies is the ability to integrate social data into national accounts. UNFPA would therefore continue to support the activities of UNSTAT to develop general criteria for integrating social and population dimensions into national accounts.

64. Current understanding of the interaction between population and environmental variables is deficient. Policy-relevant research supported by UNFPA would include: (a) studies to develop adequate methodological approaches and theoretical frameworks that take environmental concerns into account; (b) research on the interaction between the capacity and sustainability of agricultural lands, taking into account, among other things, food-security and gender issues; and (c) policy-relevant research on the relationship between population growth and distribution, environmental degradation and poverty. Collaboration would be sought with United Nations agencies and organizations, pertinent NGOs and national institutions in both developing and developed countries.

65. Working with such potential collaborators as the United Nations Statistical Division, the ILO, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and relevant university centres, UNFPA would support the development of methodologies aimed at gaining a more systematic knowledge of international migration in developing countries. Changes in internal population distribution, particularly urbanization, are also very important. The Fund would contribute to the preparatory activities for the HABITAT II conference, scheduled for June 1996, by sponsoring a scientific symposium on these topics in collaboration with one or more noted research centres. UNFPA would support research to investigate the growing phenomenon of environmental migrants, in which people are forced to leave their land because of environmental degradation, which has important implications for poverty, unintended urbanization and a country's overall economic and social development.

66. The ICPD Programme of Action explicitly drew attention to the role of men in the family and the need for them to assume responsibilities for child care and household work. It also called on men to take responsibility for their sexual and reproductive behaviour. A better understanding of the joint responsibilities between men and women is a prerequisite if women and men are to be equal partners in public and private life. UNFPA would support sociocultural research on gender roles in family planning decision-making and child rearing. This activity would develop new in-depth qualitative and quantitative methodologies for the collection of data on the socialization of boys and girls. Since the proposed research would involve work in a number of regions, there is the possibility of cross-cultural comparison and interregional collaboration. Such research would facilitate the development of IEC materials and the carrying out of advocacy activities.

67. Population ageing in both developing and developed countries results in fundamental changes in society. Lack of analytical insight and inadequate data have, in many instances, hampered the understanding of the impact of ageing and limited the ability of organizations to meet the needs of this

growing population. Because of the large numbers of people involved, careful planning is required to effectively meet the challenges posed by an ageing population. UNFPA would promote comparative research on this topic and would advocate for the rights of the elderly.

2. Dissemination of information

68. UNFPA would give priority to collecting and analysing data on both national and international policies and legislation related to population and development as a way of influencing legislators to improve national laws relating to population and development and to enforce international conventions. The publication of the *Annual Review of Population Law* would be continued in agreement with Harvard University. The Fund would also help to strengthen population research in developing countries through dissemination of materials on population and development produced by institutions such as the Committee for International Cooperation in National Research in Demography (CICRED).

3. Training in population and sustainable development

69. UNFPA would continue to support the Global Programme of Training in Population and Sustainable Development, which each year trains some 125 mid-career government officials from developing countries. The overall objective of UNFPA support to the Global Programme is to contribute to the formulation and implementation of integrated national population and development strategies, policies and programmes as well as to international development strategies. The programme would continue to operate at the Centre for Development Studies in Trivandrum, India; the Cairo Demographic Centre; the Institut National Scientifique et d'Economie Appliquée in Rabat, Morocco; the University of Botswana, Gaborone; and the University of Chile in Santiago. An independent evaluation of the programme is scheduled to take place from June to November 1995.

70. Training workshops in gender, population and development will be conducted in collaboration with Royal Tropical Institute of the Netherlands and UNIFEM in several pilot countries to develop training modules and materials that can be adapted by national and regional training institutions to suit regional and country needs. An important aim is to strengthen national and regional training institutes through the modification of current training curricula. Support to women's NGOs to promote technical cooperation at the international level as a means of sharing information and expertise and of helping to build national capacity would be an important part of the programme. Assistance would also be provided for management and leadership training for women's NGOs.

B. Regional programmes

1. Sub-Saharan Africa

71. Seventeen sub-Saharan African countries have adopted explicit population policies while 16 more are in the process of adopting them. Nevertheless, much work remains in refining existing policies and in assuring that population factors are taken into account in sectoral development strategies. The

proposed regional programme for sub-Saharan Africa would contribute to efforts to train personnel to meet these challenges as well as to conduct research relevant to the region and its subregions.

72. Research. Several types of data gathering and analysis necessary for the creation of political will and/or the planning and monitoring of programmes would benefit from regional support. Regional research on the interrelated topics of population, urbanization, migration and development would be conducted by such regional institutes as CERPOD. In this context, efforts would be made to clarify the interrelationships between population variables and structural adjustment programmes.

73. Training. Although increasing numbers of demographers are available at the national level, personnel with clear understanding of the relationships between population, development, and the environment are still in relatively short supply. To this end, UNFPA would continue to support such institutions as the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) in Ghana and the Institut de formation et de recherche demographique (IFORD) in Cameroon for training in demography, including a focus on development issues. Support would also continue to the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) to integrate population into the training programme for economists and planners and to organize subregional population and development training programmes. The capacity for conducting censuses in sub-Saharan Africa has increased significantly in recent years, yet heavy personnel turnover and lack of access to recent advances in census technology make regional training a cost-effective approach. Multi-bilateral support for such a programme would be sought.

2. Arab States and Europe

Arab states

74. The 1992-1995 programme contributed significantly to increasing the commitment of the Governments of Arab States to adopt and implement population programmes. The need to strengthen this commitment and to support the process of formulating comprehensive multi-sectoral population policies is essential to achieve lasting improvements in the status of women in the context of an integrated approach to population and sustainable development. The regional programme would continue to promote the concept of sustainable development among parliamentarians, policy and decision-makers, NGOs, and women's and youth organizations in the Arab States. It would also support national efforts aimed at modifying attitudes regarding gender roles among men and women and at improving the status of women.

75. Research. UNFPA would support ESCWA in establishing a network of national population councils at the regional level to exchange experiences and establish strategies for integrating population variables into development planning. UNFPA would also support policy-oriented research on the impact caused by the migration of men on the social and economic status of women and the family, to be undertaken by the Population Research Unit at the League of Arab States. The Fund would also support an in-depth analysis of the results of PAPCHILD in order to extract pertinent policy recommendations and to design appropriate programmes. Support would also be provided to interdisciplinary training workshops on population, environment and development strategies. An important activity will be the

development of a core set of indicators for monitoring progress in eliminating gender bias in population and sustainable development programmes and for measuring the impact of such programmes on the status of women. In addition, UNFPA would continue to support data collection activities in the region through PAPCHILD and the Gulf Family Survey.

76. Dissemination of information. Funds would be provided for the organization of a regional conference on Population and Sustainable Development to be executed by the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) and co-sponsored by the League of Arab States, ESCWA, and the Cairo Demographic Centre. UNFPA would continue its support to the Centre for Arab Women Training and Research (CAWTAR) to strengthen networking among women's organizations in the region and to undertake research and provide training on gender concepts and issues specifically in the area of reproductive health and on the status of women and their participation in economic development. In addition, support would be provided to ESCWA and UNSTAT to work with CAWTAR in developing databases on women in several Arab countries.

77. Training. UNFPA would support a project aimed at building and reinforcing the capacity of Arab NGOs to manage and implement activities and programmes related to population and sustainable development. To improve the quality of population data and their use in development planning, UNFPA would provide support to the Cairo Demographic Centre to organize and conduct a series of short-term training programmes in Arabic specially tailored to the needs of the region and directed towards high-level managers and decision makers.

Europe

78. In Europe, there are two issues of growing concern that would be addressed in the regional programme: international migration caused by political factors, such as armed conflicts and ethnic strife, and by the comparative difference in living standards between countries; and the consequences of changes in population growth and age distribution.

79. Research. UNFPA will support the ECE in studying the process, causes and consequences of international migration within and towards the ECE region. Funds would also be provided to support the ECE's work in the field of population dynamics and household structure, which includes policy-oriented studies on the socio-economic status and living arrangements of elderly people. This research would focus on certain under-studied aspects of population ageing in the countries with economies in transition, specifically those relating to gender roles in old age, and on the status of women.

3. Asia and the Pacific

80. Of particular concern in the Asia and Pacific region are current migration patterns and the status and role of women. In these two areas, UNFPA would support policy-relevant research and analysis and would sponsor seminars and expert group meetings to disseminate the findings. These activities would be implemented in collaboration with organizations with expertise in this sector, including ESCAP and the Asian Urban Information Centre of Kobe, Japan, among others.

81. Because of the changing population age structure in a number of countries in the region, Governments need to develop appropriate policies concerning the welfare and safety of the elderly. UNFPA can assist in the development of policies to improve the situation of the elderly, drawing on the technical assistance of such organizations as ESCAP and JOICFP.

82. UNFPA would support operations research seeking to shed further light on the problem of gender inequity and excess mortality of girl children. This would include analysis of the root causes of gender bias in three Asian countries where fertility decline has been accompanied by selection of male children through abortion. The results of such research would be used to encourage policy measures to counter gender bias.

83. Dissemination of information. UNFPA would continue to support the use of a variety of communication channels and technologies to foster greater commitment to and support for integrated population and development policies and programmes in the region. The UNFPA programme would make use of a wide range of traditional and modern media, including publications, computerized databases and regional networks such as the Asia-Pacific Population Information Network, an ongoing regional project.

84. Training. Despite advances in the region, there are still gaps in terms of the quality and coverage of baseline population information. UNFPA will support training activities in establishing and maintaining population databases and in applying modern information technology. Such activities would be conducted with the assistance of agencies such as ESCAP. UNFPA proposes to continue its support for the fellowship programme at the International Institute for Population Studies, which has provided training to government officials, university teachers and researchers in the region and has been successful in addressing the need to develop and maintain a cadre of population specialists at different levels of government.

4. Latin America and the Caribbean

85. Research. UNFPA would continue to support research on such topics as the value of investing in reproductive health and its impact on maternal morbidity and mortality, on the productivity of women and other family members, and on women's rights and well-being. The results of these studies will be used to help countries gain a better understanding of the interlinkages between these issues and to develop policies accordingly.

86. A general framework for socio-demographic data collection and analysis at the municipal level has been developed in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. This approach is considered to be appropriate for other countries in the Central American subregion. A proposal called Plan 2000, which will receive support under the UNFPA regional programme, aims at developing multi-country methodological bases and systems and convening multi-country workshops on municipal planning systems in several countries in Central America.

87. UNFPA would continue its support to the Latin America Demographic Centre (CELADE) for studies aimed at increasing the availability of up-to-date methodologies and technologies in data collection, in particular for conducting censuses and socio-demographic surveys. Such support would also be used to develop methodologies to estimate demographic indicators and trends and to provide training in demographic techniques. UNFPA would also provide assistance for sociocultural research in support of reproductive health policies and programmes, drawing on the recent successes of the CST activities in this area and expanding on them through the regional programme established by the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO).

88. Dissemination of information. Given the important role of legislatures in policy formulation, the regional programme would continue working through the Inter-American Parliamentarian Group (IAPG) to inform and train parliamentarians on how to formulate social policies sensitive to population issues and to negotiate budget allocations for the population sector through national parliamentary systems. UNFPA would collaborate with ECLAC in order to ensure the inclusion of population issues in its publication Social Panorama.

89. Training. UNFPA would continue its support to CELADE to provide intensive training in demographic techniques at the regional level. Activities aimed at enhancing and using the national capacity and the comparative advantages of various countries in the region to develop human-resource training programmes in population and development would be implemented. In this regard, the Fund would promote cooperation with the newly-created Social Development Institute of the Inter-American Development Bank as well as with other regional academic and non-academic specialized institutions.

90. Because of a severe lack of trained people in Central America, UNFPA would undertake special subregional training and institutional development programme aimed at strengthening national capacity to develop and implement programmes. Several Central American institutions, universities, foundations and NGOs have been identified and would be used as centres for training cadres from other countries. Training would be conducted in the organization of reproductive health services; IEC; gender, environment and population; sociocultural and ethnic issues in reproductive health; and the economic aspects of human resource investment.

IV. ADVOCACY

A. Interregional programme

91. UNFPA's primary aim in the area of advocacy is to strengthen and broaden the base of policy support for efforts of concern to the Fund in the areas of health; education; reproductive health, including adolescent reproductive health; the empowerment of women; poverty alleviation; and the environment. Under the proposed programme, UNFPA would continue to work with policy makers, parliamentarians and international NGOs and their networks concerning advocacy in the area of population and sustainable development.

92. Training. UNFPA would provide support for the development of training and advocacy prototype materials on such issues as the education of girls, the enforcement of existing gender equity laws, and the importance of the involvement and commitment of men in contributing to the achievement of gender equity. In this connection, UNFPA would continue to work closely with NGOs and other United Nations entities such as WHO, UNICEF and UNIFEM.

93. Dissemination of information. The Fund would support a review of population education materials in the interest of eliminating gender stereotypes and featuring a positive message regarding equality and equity between the sexes as well as in promoting male responsibility in reproductive health.

94. UNFPA, in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies and NGOs, would advocate the formulation of programmes to maximize female enrolment in schools and to promote continuing education for women. The Fund would continue its contribution to the Education for All (EFA) initiative, in which UNESCO, the World Bank, UNICEF and UNDP are partners with UNFPA. In particular, UNFPA would use the EFA initiative to champion girls' education and to introduce population considerations into EFA activities. The Fund would contribute to the mid-decade review of Education For All through the collection of data on the contribution of population education to the goals of EFA.

95. Globally, UNFPA would continue to collaborate with media representatives in developing effective information programmes for television and radio and in securing coverage of population and development in newspapers and magazines. The Fund would support the development of information materials, print as well as audio-visual, for a variety of audiences on the need for, and examples of, the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. These information materials would be for general distribution as well as for use in seminars, conferences and information campaigns and in support of special activities such as World Population Day. Support would also be provided to parliamentary groups for meetings to establish core supporters for population and development and to international NGOs for the production of population information materials, especially on the need to improve the status of women.

96. With a view to promoting the dissemination of population information, UNFPA would provide support to such NGOs as The Population Council, JOICFP and the International Institute for Vital Registration and Statistics (IIVRS) to produce publications with worldwide circulations covering reproductive health issues, technical information on contraceptives, studies in family planning and other population-related issues.

97. The State of World Population report, the Fund's major annual publication since 1978, is the most frequently cited publication of UNFPA. It is ranked with UNICEF's State of the World's Children report and UNDP's Human Development Report as an authoritative source of information on social development issues. Two project staff at the Professional level and one General Service staff are required for the research, writing and publication of this report, which is now produced in some 20 languages. The report will add a new section in 1996 to examine progress towards implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. Beginning in 1995, the report is also available via the Internet.

B. Regional programmes

1. Sub-Saharan Africa

98. In the area of advocacy, the proposed regional programme for sub-Saharan Africa is designed to reinforce country-level efforts: (a) to convert awareness of population and reproductive health problems into a decisive political commitment to confront such problems; (b) to extend such awareness and commitment to leaders at the central, provincial and local levels; (c) to assure that everyone is made aware of the importance and availability of reproductive health services; and (d) to create awareness of the need for and, hence, acceptance of reproductive health information and services to adolescents.

99. Training. Regional IEC training courses would be organized to include training in advocacy techniques. Additionally, special training in advocacy would be provided to staff of government and non-governmental organizations to promote reproductive health for adolescents, to abolish laws and practices that discriminate against girls and women, and to improve the educational status of girls. UNFPA would encourage the development of national networks of legal clinics stressing reproductive health rights and women's health rights by, inter alia, organizing regional meetings to develop strategies and to exchange information. The assistance of the Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA) as well as a number of NGOs such as the International Commission of Jurists is anticipated for these activities. Likewise, regional training in the management of income-generating activities for women leaders of small NGOs and community-based organizations would be organized with the assistance of national federations of businesswomen as well as of CEDPA and UNIFEM. The Fund would support a series of regional seminars to develop strategies to change male attitudes that impede women's access to reproductive health services and to equitable participation in development.

100. Dissemination of information. Although most efforts to build leadership consensus behind population programmes must take place at the national level, regional support to institutions such as the Organization for African Unity (OAU) and the ECA is envisioned to enable them to keep the issues of the ICPD before the region's leaders. Together with the World Bank and the African Development Bank, UNFPA would endeavour to focus the attention of key government agencies, especially ministries of planning and finance, on population issues. Similarly, population concerns would be taken up at subregional forums sponsored by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Cooperation Conference (SADCC) and other organizations. The Fund would also provide assistance for regional seminars aimed at developing strategies for mobilizing support for population programmes and exchanging information between key NGOs and community-based organizations.

101. To reach both leaders and general audiences, UNFPA would explore with agencies such as the Pan African News Agency (PANA) and the Union of African National Radio and Television (URTNA) ways to generate more population-related materials for radio, television, and the print media and to assure wider and more systematic circulation of the materials produced. UNFPA would also support

the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children and other NGOs and community-based organizations in building awareness of the negative effects of such harmful practices as female genital mutilation.

2. Arab States and Europe

Arab States

102. All research and studies conducted in the Arab region on the relationship between women's status, population and development have concluded that women's status is the single most important factor influencing fertility and mortality patterns and that improving that status is an important factor in achieving sustainable development. Improving the status of women is therefore the pillar of UNFPA's strategy in the Arab States region. There is an increasing need to inform, educate and involve adolescents and youth in the debate on population, health, environment and sustainable development so that their views are taken into consideration.

103. Training. UNFPA would support a regional workshop to inform and educate youth leaders on such issues as the reproductive health needs of adolescents and the risks related to teen-age pregnancies and childbirth associated with early marriage. Regional workshops would also be organized for influential newspaper journalists and mass media professionals to create awareness of the dynamics of population and sustainable development and on implementing the ICPD Programme of Action.

104. Dissemination of information. UNFPA would support, under the umbrella of the Inter-parliamentary Union, the establishment of an Arab Parliamentarian Information Network with the aim of sensitizing parliamentarians, elected leaders and other policy and decision makers to the need for promoting legislative reforms, passing and enforcing laws to improve the status of women and removing legal constraints for efficient implementation of reproductive health programmes. UNFPA would also support the collaborative efforts of ESCWA and the League of Arab States in establishing a regional committee and setting up a mechanism for advocacy and follow-up of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action at the national level.

105. In view of the influence of the Islamic religion and its interpretation on the status of women, particularly its impact on women's access to reproductive health at the community level, UNFPA would support the production of a simple booklet on Islam, reproductive health and the status of women addressed to reproductive health service providers, agricultural extension agents and social workers. The booklet would serve as a prototype to be adapted to local contexts and translated into local dialects.

Europe

106. Training. UNFPA would organize regional meetings and workshops to promote reproductive health programmes and related IEC among young people in countries with economies in transition emphasizing risks related to teen-age pregnancies, abortion and the spread of STDs and HIV/AIDS.

107. Dissemination of information. UNFPA would continue its support to Entre-Nous, the European family planning magazine. It would also contribute to the dissemination among the countries with economies in transition of state-of-the art knowledge, techniques and methodologies in the field of reproductive health and related IEC by having selected pertinent materials translated into Russian.

108. UNFPA would support ECE's project for establishing a regional committee and setting up a mechanism for advocacy and follow-up of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action at the subregional and regional levels. The mechanism would also be used to monitor selected demographic trends and population-related policies at the national, subregional and regional levels with a view to assessing the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

3. Asia and the Pacific

109. UNFPA has two major objectives in the area of advocacy in the Asia and Pacific region: (a) to maintain high-level political commitment to the ICPD Programme of Action through exchange of experience and information among countries in the region; and (b) to promote gender equality and equity as important elements of better health for girls and women.

110. Training. UNFPA would organize regional and subregional workshops, seminars and conferences to address the policy issues related to implementing the Programme of Action and to examining ways to achieve gender equality. In connection with the latter, UNFPA would advocate the empowerment of women by developing a holistic approach to women's health, by promoting measures that respond to the employment and training needs of women, and by enlisting the commitment and cooperation of men. In addition, training activities would be conducted to sensitize leaders and policy makers with regard to the value of the girl child and on the need for the education of girls.

111. Dissemination of information. To sustain political commitment to the Programme of Action, UNFPA would continue to support advocacy activities of organizations such as the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development and the Asian Population Development Association.

4. Latin America and the Caribbean

112. The objectives of advocacy work in Latin America and the Caribbean are: (a) to strengthen IEC activities directed towards political leaders, policy makers, parliamentarians, journalists and private-sector agents; (b) to clarify the ICPD Programme of Action and broaden political support for its goals; and (c) to strengthen links with a broad array of NGOs involved in social and community development, notably with marginal urban, rural and indigenous populations and with poor women and youth in general. Partners in achieving these goals would be inter-governmental organizations and NGOs as well as appropriate sectoral ministries, financial and budget state secretariats.

113. Training. UNFPA would support meetings of government and NGO participants to discuss such issues as reproductive health and social conditions; youth employment, health and the inter-generational transmission of poverty; and migration, displacement and reproductive health. Discussion would also

focus on the economic return on spending on reproductive health and on the education of girls. The Fund would also provide support to universities and foundations to conduct and publish joint studies on socio-demographic issues affecting women and youth in the region.

114. Dissemination of information. More emphasis than in the past would be placed on the mobilization of regional capacities for mass communication activities. The Fund would promote cooperation with UNESCO in the field of communications and in the development of IEC materials to be used through mass media.

115. UNFPA would help organize symposia with journalists and newspaper editors of the most influential press services in order to create awareness of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. The Fund would also convene meetings of grassroots organizations, in both rural and urban areas, to discuss common problems and means of mobilizing private and public support for activities in such areas as reproductive health, nutrition and women's rights, among others.

116. A major effort would be made at the subregional level to influence policy makers. This would include the broad dissemination and promotion of information on reproductive health and on the relationship between population structure and trends and socio-economic trends. Linking the ICPD to the Copenhagen and Beijing Conferences -- and to their follow-up -- is a central part of the proposed advocacy work and is part of the proposed regional effort to promote the empowerment of women.

117. UNFPA would seek to strengthen current efforts with the Ibero-American Youth Organization for the introduction of population and reproductive health issues in the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Programme for Youth (PRADJAL). For this purpose, a five-year cooperation agreement has been signed. A meeting took place in Cartagena, Colombia, in early 1995 to prepare for these efforts.

V. RECOMMENDATION

118. The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve the proposed UNFPA intercountry programme for 1996-1999 in the amount of $175.0 million, as contained in document DP/1995/44, to be distributed as follows: $102.0 million for the interregional programme; $28.0 million for the regional programme for sub-Saharan Africa; $12.0 million for the Arab States and Europe; $19.0 million for Asia and the Pacific; and $14.0 million for Latin America and the Caribbean.

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REVIEW OF THE UNFPA INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMME, 1992-1995

Report of the Executive Director

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I. OVERVIEW

1. In decision 91/35, the Governing Council approved the UNFPA intercountry programme in the amount of $178 million for 1992-1995 -- a total of $66.4 million for the four regional programmes and $111.6 for the interregional programme. In implementing the approved programme, the Executive Director decided to reduce the allocation of the intercountry programme to $152 million, to align it with the actual financial resources of UNFPA during the period. The expenditures and allocations for activities in the various substantive programme areas for 1992-1995 are presented in table 1.

Table 1. The intercountry programme, by programme area, 1992-1995

Programme Area	1992-1995 ($ millions)	%
Maternal and child health/ family planning	45.8	30.13
Information, education and communication	33.1	21.78
Basic data collection	5.3	3.49
Population dynamics	15.5	10.20
Population policy	26.0	17.10
Special programmes	13.6	8.95
Multisectoral activities	12.7	8.35
TOTAL	152.0	100.00

Note: Figures include project expenditures for 1992-1994 and project allocations for 1995.

2. Slightly more than half the available funds were assigned to the priority areas of maternal and child health and family planning (MCH/FP) and information, education and communication (IEC). The percentage originally approved for these two major workplan categories was 52.9 per cent; under the reduced allocation, these two categories constituted 51.9 per cent of the programme. As the programme was implemented, a higher percentage of activities took place in policy research and training, and a lower proportion in basic data collection.

3. In the previous intercountry programme for 1988-1991, approximately four fifths of the resources were for activities executed by organizations and agencies of the United Nations system; in the 1992-1995 programme, 43 per cent of the resources were for activities executed by United Nations organizations and agencies. The remainder of the programme was executed by non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

4. The intercountry programme provided support to all substantive programme areas of UNFPA through three major types of activities -- research, training and the dissemination of information -- focusing on the continuation of successful projects and on the development of new initiatives.

A. Research

5. UNFPA continued its support to contraceptive research with the aim of benefiting country programmes by making available a wide variety of safe contraceptives. At the same time, concern for the availability of contraceptives worldwide prompted UNFPA to launch the Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements and Logistics Management Needs in Developing Countries in the 1990s, which included in-depth research in 12 countries concerning their anticipated contraceptive needs. Through the World Health Organization (WHO), UNFPA supported research on maternal health and the causes of maternal mortality and morbidity. Guidelines were published on research methods and counselling in the field of adolescent reproductive health, an area in which UNFPA-assisted projects successfully increased awareness, globally and nationally.

6. A major research effort supported by UNFPA was the Pan-Arab Project for Child Development (PAPCHILD), which produced, for the first time, a complete set of socio-economic, demographic and health data for all Arab countries. Information on maternal and child health has already served as an input in the development of country policies. UNFPA also supported a variety of policy-oriented research undertakings on women, including a study by The Population Council on the relationship between gender equity, family structure and reproductive choices. Other research efforts related to women included support for the development of the Women's Indicators and Statistics Data Base for microcomputers (WISTAT) and a research project executed by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) on population and environmental linkages, and the role of women as resource users. UNFPA supported research in international migration through projects of the United Nations Population Division, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

7. Notwithstanding the reduced resources for basic population data, an impressive array of new methodologies for rapid data analysis and dissemination were developed and strengthened, such as REDATAM, POPMAP (see para. 55 below) and the Population Information Network (POPIN).

B. Training

8. UNFPA continued its support to major training activities, among them the Global Training Programme in Population and Sustainable Development, which successfully trained 360 participants from 92 countries. The Global Programme also initiated the transfer of European-based training programmes to developing countries.

9. In sub-Saharan Africa, regional training programmes in demography produced a significant core group of specialists who, upon return to their countries, were instrumental in creating population awareness and in formulating population policies. In Asia and the Pacific, UNFPA supported a programme of population studies at the International Institute for Population Studies and, in Latin America and the Caribbean, a programme of fellowships for training in demographic analysis. UNFPA also supported training for health professionals, including a project to upgrade training in reproductive health for professors in health science schools.

C. Awareness creation and information dissemination

10. To maximize awareness of the importance of integrating population in development policies and programmes, UNFPA supported the incorporation of population education into the ongoing programmes of other United Nations organizations. At the same time, through support to both scientific and non-technical publications and by funding translations and worldwide distribution of publications, UNFPA promoted attention to population issues and brought state-of-the-art information on new technologies and research findings to the attention of national research institutions and policy makers. A project with Al-Azhar University served to clarify population issues in the context of Islam. A South Asian Regional Conference on Safe Motherhood served to create awareness concerning the need to improve health services to women. In Tehran, a regional conference was organized for the Central Asian Republics on aspects of reproductive health.

D. Evaluations and project reviews

11. UNFPA followed up the implementation of intercountry projects through review meetings, project progress reports and independent evaluations. These assessments indicated that the projects were largely successful in reaching their objectives. Some projects, however, suffered considerable implementation delays. Also, it was found that sociocultural research was difficult to carry out at the intercountry level, and certain topics, such as population and environment, and international migration, were so complex that more time was needed to gather findings useful for policy formulation and programme implementation. Assessments also found that the impact of training programmes was sometimes unmeasurable.

12. In addition to indicating project successes and constraints, the reviews and evaluations pointed to certain new directions that were incorporated in the Fund's recent initiatives. A UNFPA evaluation of projects executed by WHO indicated a need for more effective ways of disseminating up-to-date knowledge to service providers. The findings of this evaluation and UNFPA assessments of country needs in family planning pointed clearly to the advantages of adopting a comprehensive reproductive health approach, in which the quality of services is as important as the quantity of services delivered and the reaching of quantitative targets. Reviews of the results of activities in the area of women, population and development (WPD) highlighted the importance of mainstreaming gender issues in all of UNFPA-supported activities.

II. SECTORAL ACTIVITIES

A. Maternal and child health and family planning

Interregional programme

13. In the area of MCH/FP, the interregional programme's objective was to address concerns in developing countries in regard to the need: (a) to develop reliable and safer contraceptives; (b) to develop tools to ascertain contraceptive requirements and production and marketing capabilities in developing countries; (c) to call attention to unacceptable and preventable high levels of maternal

mortality and to implement changes in service delivery to address its causes; (d) to devise approaches and mechanisms to address the reproductive health needs of adolescents in ways acceptable to them and in line with society's values; (e) to improve management of MCH/FP country projects by addressing management needs for contraceptive guidelines, for fast, user-friendly monitoring and evaluation systems and for problem-solving operational research; and (f) to accelerate the prevention of HIV/AIDS.

14. To improve the quality of care and to increase the contraceptive choices available to couples and individuals, efforts are needed to develop new methods of contraception and to improve existing methods. UNFPA contributed significantly to the success of The Population Council's Contraceptive Development Programme, particularly for work on subdermal implants for females and males, contraceptive rings, intra-uterine devices (IUDs), a vaccine for men, a new method of vasectomy, a transdermal system for women, and spermicides/microbicides. NORPLANT® was approved in more countries during this period and is now available in 38 countries. The Post-marketing Surveillance Study of NORPLANT implants, carried out by The Population Council in collaboration with WHO and Family Health International (FHI), will continue through 1997. The World Health Organization/Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (WHO/HRP) continued to undertake contraceptive research and development and to strengthen the capability of developing countries to carry out research on reproductive health. During this period, WHO/HRP worked with research institutions located in 54 developing countries and 26 developed countries. WHO/HRP completed the development of two injectable preparations -- Cyclofem and Mesigna. Cyclofem was promoted through the Concept Foundation, a non-profit organization established under the sponsorship of UNFPA and WHO/HRP, among others. Schering AG obtained registration of Mesigna in six countries and intended to begin marketing it in early 1995. These efforts have increased the quality and quantity of contraceptive methods available in developing countries. This experience has demonstrated that effective development of these products requires long-term cooperation between national and international agencies.

15. Planners and programme managers have been concerned about the steadily growing need for a reliable and low-cost supply of contraceptives. In 1991, UNFPA, working in partnership with selected developing countries, bilateral agencies, NGOs and other organizations, launched the Global Initiative on Contraceptive Requirements and Logistics Management Needs in Developing Countries in the 1990s. Through the Global Initiative, in-depth studies have been conducted in 12 developing countries to ascertain their contraceptive requirements, logistics management needs, the potential for local production of contraception, and costs over a 10-year period. The Global Initiative has been funded by the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB), the Rockefeller Foundation, the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), the World Bank and UNFPA. The Global Initiative has played a key role in promoting a better understanding of contraceptive requirements and logistics management needs in those countries where in-depth studies have been completed. It has also led to a regular exchange of information and increased coordination among donors with regard to meeting the contraceptive needs of developing countries. Simultaneously, the Global Initiative has promoted further thinking on the need to estimate and service unmet needs.

16. Additional activities accomplished under the Global Initiative included the publication and dissemination of technical reports on the country studies; the development of a process for follow-up

action plans in countries where studies have been completed and reports published; publication (in English, French and Spanish) and dissemination of a guide to procurement entitled *Contraceptive Procurement: Options for Programme Managers*; the development of a database on donor support for contraceptive commodities; the publication and dissemination of an update of global estimates for contraceptives, entitled *Contraceptive Use and Commodity Costs in Developing Countries, 1994-2005*; and the preparation of a discussion paper on the idea of a global contraceptive commodity fund.

17. To improve health and, in particular, to reduce the mortality of vulnerable populations, the interregional programme has supported, through WHO, research on maternal health and the causes of maternal mortality and morbidity. An evaluation of projects indicated that, at the global level and to a lesser extent at the national level, the interregional projects helped to increase awareness about unacceptably high levels of maternal mortality and morbidity and to focus attention on clinical and service issues. Related efforts through the Safe Motherhood project reviewed the effectiveness of interventions and identified strategies for implementation of programmatic activities. The projects were less successful, however, in producing training materials, developing innovative research methodologies and producing research results that directly guided national health planning. It has been recommended that these activities be carried out at the national level for best results.

18. UNFPA-assisted projects successfully increased the focus on adolescent reproductive health issues, globally and nationally, according to an independent evaluation of interregional projects on adolescent reproductive health. These projects also produced important guidelines on research methods and counselling training, and the publication *The Health of Young People: A Challenge and a Promise*, which brings together much of what is known in the field. However, the evaluation also noted the need for promoting more focus, setting priorities and developing a strategy for assisting countries in implementing programmes to effect technology transfer. Activities supported through WHO have produced useful materials on adolescent reproductive health.

19. Other interregional activities included the development and field-testing of methodologies for strengthening management and information in MCH/FP programmes, for rapidly evaluating MCH/FP services, for fostering problem-solving research and addressing operational issues, for designing and refining the District Problem Solving Team method, and for developing indicators of MCH/FP health status and service performance. These activities were elements of a project executed by WHO. An evaluation concluded that, despite modest investment, imprecise objectives and inadequate project monitoring, the project resulted in several products with significant potential for future applications.

20. Support continued for the integrated family planning and public health activities of the Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning, Inc. (JOICFP), which focused on promoting technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC), monitoring projects and providing technical backstopping to regional and country-level MCH/FP projects in more than a dozen countries.

21. With respect to supervision and evaluation of MCH/FP, the interregional programme supported activities in setting standards for family planning and contraceptive technology. Guidelines were developed on: the contraceptive method mix; community-based distribution of contraceptives; IUD

services; prevention and management of infertility; and AIDS prevention in MCH/FP programmes, among others. An evaluation, which found evidence that some sections of the guidelines were unclear and that distribution of the guidelines was inadequate, recommended, inter alia, simplifying the text, broadening the distribution to practitioners and targeted recipients, systematically promoting the guidelines and translating them into local languages.

22. The HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to increase in Africa and is growing in importance in Asia. The spread of the disease across all geographic regions and all groups of the population highlights the need for a worldwide effort focused on preventing infection and improving the treatment of those affected. Support continued for HIV/AIDS prevention activities at the regional and interregional levels, within the scope of the overall global strategy of the WHO/Global Programme on AIDS and in close collaboration with United Nations organizations and NGOs. UNFPA supported the WHO/GPA Task Force on HIV/AIDS Coordination, including a grant for the publication of the Biennial Report of HIV/AIDS Activities, and is one of the cosponsors and active partners in the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

Regional programmes

23. Sub-Saharan Africa. UNFPA supported the training of 270 regional trainees in clinical family planning at the Mauritius Institute of Health and 49 trainees in a course which rotated among Portuguese-speaking African countries and which was technically backstopped by the Ministry of Health of Portugal. Due to the increasing availability of clinically trained personnel in most countries of the region, efforts, as yet not entirely successful, were made to convert these regional courses into courses of excellence for those with an expected training function (tutors in schools of medicine, nursing, and midwifery; members of in-service training teams; district supervisors, etc.). Additionally, support was provided to Laval University (Canada) for short-term training in MCH/FP management for 140 francophone health personnel and to the University of Montreal for the provision of 10-month training programme for a total of 96. Both programmes are moving in 1995 to Dakar, Senegal, where they will rely much more heavily on African faculty.

24. At the regional level, relatively little support was provided for MCH/FP research. Despite a growing recognition of the critical need to reach adolescents, regional efforts were modest and centred on a training programme in advocacy and in peer-to-peer counselling techniques, conducted by WHO, for approximately 60 trainees from 15 countries.

25. Reviews of the above efforts as well as appraisals of country programmes point to the need to reorient regional training to a broader reproductive health focus and to strengthen courses of excellence for trainers and managers on topics such as the creation of more accessible and sustainable service networks through Government-NGO collaboration and effective supervision and logistics systems. Additionally, regional technical support is required for the country-level collection and analysis of data needed for planning, monitoring and evaluating interventions in reproductive health.

26. Arab States and Europe. Assistance was provided to expand MCH services in Gaza and the West Bank through two projects implemented by UNRWA. An evaluation conducted in March 1995

concluded that the projects had successfully expanded MCH/FP coverage, reduced infant and child mortality, and trained 215 health care providers in clinical family planning skills, 18 medical doctors and 19 nurses and midwives in IUD insertion, and 24 medical officers in obstetric and reproductive health care. The evaluation revealed in particular a significant improvement in the quality of care and provision of postnatal care. It noted the successful application of an integrated approach based on counselling concerning birth-spacing and the provision of family planning services, which resulted in an increase of modern contraceptive prevalence. Project implementation was delayed, however. There was also a lack of involvement of local NGOs in project implementation, due to insufficient resources and limited experience, especially in project management. Consequently, the evaluation recommended that an integrated strategy be developed to enhance the NGO role in the provision of health services, in accordance with the policy and standards of the Palestinian National Authority.

27. Regional training programmes in management information systems (MIS) and family planning counselling and training for trainers did not begin as planned because of a delay in recruiting the MIS adviser in the regional Country Support Team (CST) based in Amman, Jordan. Strengthening NGO capacity and establishing national MIS systems are main elements of the proposed regional programme for 1996-1999.

28. In Europe, to address the urgent need for training in reproductive health and counselling among health care professionals, UNFPA provided funds for two training courses, with a total of 45 participants. Although most of the countries with economies in transition (CET) report an increasing interest in contraceptives, induced abortion remains the principal means of fertility regulation. Moreover, some countries report an increase in teen-age pregnancies, and many report increasing rates of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV infections.

29. Asia and the Pacific. Assistance was provided to the Society for International Development to organize a South Asian regional conference on "Safe Motherhood in South Asia: Challenges Ahead". Support was also provided for six fellowships for an executive programme in health and population, a collaborative activity of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and the Indian Institute of Health Management Research in Jaipur, India. Assistance was provided to JOICFP for a community-based MCH/FP project in Bangladesh, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal and the Philippines to enable local women's NGOs to improve their response to service needs and to enhance management capabilities. Support was also provided to the International Federation for Family Life Promotion for a workshop related to family life education. A regional conference on family planning was organized in Tehran so that the Central Asian Republics could learn about various aspects of reproductive health. A conference on women and reproductive health was organized in Kathmandu so that SAARC countries could identify common problems.

30. Latin America and the Caribbean. In partnership with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and with NGOs, the regional programme supported projects to expand reproductive health services and to develop service delivery models, methodologies, standards and training modules. UNFPA supported the efforts of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) in aiding deprived populations in the Western Hemisphere. Several Safe Motherhood meetings were held in collaboration with FHI and PAHO.

31. Satisfactory results were achieved in several respects:

(a) Project execution was highly participatory, with PAHO and UNFPA (at both headquarters and field offices) making deliberate efforts to build national, as opposed to only government, capacity through the involvement of NGOs. Projects focused on priority countries, unresolved needs and the improvement of both operational research and training, rather than focusing primarily on the most accessible countries and customary themes, such as theoretical models for service delivery or learning processes, developed mostly at headquarters, as was the case in the past;

(b) Although much remains to be done, projects contributed to an increasing awareness among national health experts of new concepts and issues, such as quality of care, maternal health surveillance and reproductive health training in the health science schools. The projects started to develop reproductive health approaches, methodologies, standards and training modules that reflect new concepts and techniques. These project outcomes will be utilized by the public health sectors in the region. Many teaching tools and innovative models for services and learning were produced;

(c) Under a quality of care project, new models to improve the quality of reproductive health care at the service level were also developed and tested, and a curriculum to train trainers was designed. A maternal mortality project produced norms and training modules for family planning in post-partum and post-abortion and emergency obstetric care. New service delivery models for the reduction of maternal morbidity and mortality, and low-cost models for assessing coverage and the effectiveness of emergency obstetric care were developed. Methodologies to improve knowledge among professors in health sciences schools were developed under a project for upgrading training in reproductive health in health science schools. Three regional training centres for teacher training were being developed, and curricula and teaching materials were produced;

(d) An adolescent reproductive health care project designed and tested integrated models for adolescent reproductive health care and established reference centres for the production and dissemination of educational materials. The management of MCH/FP programmes project, which began recently, is developing a new participatory model to provide training in the management of reproductive health programmes.

32. Also, special efforts were made to strengthen the provision of reproductive health services through women's NGOs, e.g., under a project for provision of reproductive health services through women's NGOs. Fourteen NGOs in the region contributed to the development of training curricula and IEC materials in reproductive health and sexual health rights, conducting national seminars on women's health and reproductive rights, undertaking research on the effects of pesticides on reproductive health and exchanging information on these topics to improve and expand services and ensure sensitivity to gender concerns. To ensure the provision of quality reproductive health services and to contribute to their self-sustainability, UNFPA also supported IPPF Western Hemisphere efforts with most deprived populations and focused on strengthening evaluation activities and on drawing lessons for overall improvements in service delivery.

B. Information, education and communication

Interregional programme

33. IEC activities in the interregional programme were intended primarily to address developing country needs to: (a) create awareness among youth of population and reproductive health issues; (b) integrate population education into the programmes of related sectors, such as rural communities and factories; (c) take sociocultural values into consideration in the design of family planning programmes; and (d) utilize the most recent information on population issues.

34. Interregional IEC activities included a family life education project implemented at the country level, which involved numerous NGOs and United Nations agencies. Aimed at launching youth-to-youth communication activities in family planning, the project was completed in five of six countries: Colombia, Egypt, Jamaica, Senegal and Sri Lanka. Owing to a lack of interest among some of the NGOs involved, implementation in Sierra Leone was slow, but has been reactivated since 1993. More than 15,500 young people (of whom 65 per cent were male) were trained, and a total of 74 NGOs and 18 government offices were involved in the activities. Training topics included: reproductive health and family planning; consequences of early marriage and pregnancy; female sexuality and safe motherhood; contraception; abortion; and STDs. The results indicated that: (a) mobilizing youth is effective and not costly; (b) projects selected by youth result in positive attitudes and deep commitment to those activities; (c) it is important to build trust among youth and their organizations; and (d) governmental institutions and NGOs can collaborate effectively.

35. Several projects continued to integrate population education into various programmes through the development, production and adaptation of training and prototype materials and modules under the execution of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the ILO.

36. FAO executed four projects. One of these, a project for rural youth, aimed at adapting education leader guides for out-of-school rural youth to specific country situations and at institutionalizing population education as a component of rural youth programmes. Field tests were carried out at the village level in Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe; activities were completed in Ethiopia and Zimbabwe; and work in China was almost completed. Activities for Viet Nam and Peru were still under way. Initial implementation of activities was slower than expected owing to the prolonged vacancy of the FAO rural youth officer's post for most of 1992 and 1993. FAO has decided on a new strategy, to work with clusters of countries in a region. In Central America, the response to the initiative has been uneven. In those countries where reaction has been enthusiastic, young people have called for more information on reproductive health, resulting in the formation of new alliances between ministries and among ministries and NGOs. Additional countries are to be included (in sub-Saharan Africa, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania; in Asia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand; and in Latin America, Bolivia and Venezuela).

37. In a project to provide training on population in support of agricultural extension services, eight countries were contacted to identify suitable training institutions or centres which would be interested

in training agricultural extension workers in population education matters. Institutions were identified in Ecuador, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia, Nepal and the United Republic of Tanzania. Follow-up communication with training institutions in Burkina Faso and Morocco was made, and additional institutions in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi and, possibly, Kenya, are to be contacted. The project's strategy utilized a participatory approach, whereby the institutions were involved in designing and developing the training curricula, syllabi, guides and learning materials and in providing for translation, adaptation and testing of training materials and methods at the country level, to facilitate appropriate use of the materials by national and local trainers. Another project to integrate population factors into forestry planning and programming at the intermediate and community levels in selected regions was supported.

38. FAO also executed a project to strengthen research and training in population and development dynamics of rural fishing communities. Initially expected to be completed within this cycle, only preparatory activities have taken place. These activities consisted of reviewing existing data on population and development regarding fishing communities in Africa and Asia. Institutions and development agencies were identified in Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, the Philippines, Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania. The main phase of the project will enter the next cycle.

39. UNFPA supported UNESCO in convening the 1993 International Congress on Population Education and Development, held in Istanbul, at which the Istanbul Declaration on Population Education and Development and the Framework for Population Education on the Eve of the Twenty-First Century were adopted by the 92 States attending. The Congress served to revitalize population education in many countries and motivated countries without experience in this area, such as Namibia, to launch national programmes. As a partner in the Education for All Initiative, the Fund co-sponsored, with UNESCO and UNICEF, the most important offshoot of the Jomtien Conference and Forum, the "Nine Largest Countries Initiative", in which Heads of State of the world's nine most populous countries gathered in New Delhi in November 1993 to make a commitment to achieve basic education for all by the year 2000, with special emphasis on girls' enrolment and retention in the primary school system. As a result, the nine countries increased their national budgetary allocations for education and launched a collaborative effort in distance learning. The Ministers of Education from the nine countries have continued to meet periodically, and the Heads of State met in 1995, on the occasion of the World Summit for Social Development, to reiterate their commitment to education, with emphasis on the education of girls. The high profile of the World Conference on Education for All and the Fund's active participation with other United Nations agencies and organizations, and Governments, in its follow-up, contributed to the favourable treatment of education at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

40. A project to promote university-level population education was not implemented as envisaged. In response to needs that emerged after the project was formulated, it is being reoriented in an attempt to gain greater involvement of selected university schools and faculties of education in the promotion and upgrading of population eduction in national systems of education, as well as to lend university leadership to the continuing development of this field around the world.

41. UNESCO undertook a study to systematize available knowledge on sociocultural factors affecting demographic behaviour and draw practical conclusions for the formulation of population policies and the improvement of programme performance. Institutions in Africa, the Arab States and Latin America undertook literature searches. Two reports were prepared: the first dealt with reproductive rights as part of human rights in Brazil and India; the second reviewed sociocultural factors and sexuality patterns affecting STDs, in general, and AIDS, in particular. An expert group meeting was held in November 1993 to discuss project strategies for the next three years. However, institutional and staff changes in UNESCO affected the successful implementation of the project. Owing to the importance of sociocultural research, especially in the reproductive health and family planning and population IEC fields, the project is being reformulated.

42. The ILO continued to train workers through its Population and Family Welfare Education (PFWE) programme, which included the operation of the Population Education Clearing House. In collaboration with the PFWE programme, a regional project was developed to provide vocational training for girls in four anglophone African countries. In addition, a course on population was included in the ILO international training centre in Turin. The ILO also completed, in 1994, a series of software packages and organized a seminar for training CST members in their use.

43. Publications have been an integral part of the intercountry IEC programme. The publication of the *Annual Review of Population Law* continued during 1992-1995, based on an agreement between UNFPA and Harvard University, with distribution to United Nations field offices and leading research institutes in developing countries. In cooperation with the Social Development Centre of the University of Chicago, the programme supported publication of the eight-volume *Readings in Population Research Methodology*, which was sent without charge to major research institutes and universities in developing countries. Support was continued for the production and dissemination of newsletters and other information materials to audiences throughout the developing world, through regional and interregional projects with United Nations specialized agencies and NGOs. Assistance was provided for *JOICFP News*; *Integration*, which contains articles contributed by professionals working on population issues in the United Nations and other agencies and organizations; the French and Spanish versions of *International Family Planning Perspectives*, by the Alan Guttmacher Institute; and a quarterly magazine, *People & the Planet*. In addition, support was provided for the production of training manuals, including *Training of Trainers* and *Project Design* by the Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA).

44. Also noteworthy are the *State of World Population* report, and the annual *Inventory of Population Projects in Developing Countries Around the World* and its companion volume, the triennial *Guide to Sources of International Population Assistance*, which have helped to promote awareness of, and disseminate information worldwide on, population and related issues. In recent years, the annual *State of World Population* report, produced in more than 20 languages, has received increasing coverage by the media in developed and developing countries and was widely used at the country level to generate interest in population activities.

45. To assist Governments in meeting their increasing needs for accurate, up-to-date information on population policies and programmes, technologies and field experience, support was provided for

various electronic databases and software packages aimed at information dissemination and awareness creation. New technological applications are being adopted, e.g., CD-ROM and Windows. Cooperation with the United Nations Population Division has been successful in further developing POPIN. The POPIN gopher is part of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Gopher system, which in early 1994 had 2,000 daily users. With the Internet connection, the number of potential users now reaches 20 million worldwide. The project provided all relevant documentation through the network during ICPD. In cooperation with The Johns Hopkins University, UNFPA has continued to develop a population reference network (POPLINE). To facilitate the dissemination of the population literature data to less developed regions, the CD-ROM version of the database has been developed. Updates of the data disk are being distributed to developing countries through the offices of UNFPA Representatives and Country Directors.

Regional programmes

46. Sub-Saharan Africa. The principal achievement of the regional programme in IEC was the institutionalization of anglophone regional training courses at the Kenya Institute of Mass Communications (KIMC) in Nairobi, Kenya. KIMC offered courses on IEC organization, management and strategy development; audience research and message development; and materials development. It also provided courses for 300 trainers of health workers on family counselling skills, which have been viewed as highly useful for national population programmes. The analogous centre for francophone trainees was staffed and established in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, only in late 1994 and will not offer courses before 1996. Other regional activities under the IEC rubric included ad hoc support for film production and the provision of population clocks and cards, as educational and information tools, to educational and training institutions, government offices and NGOs. Although useful, they do not constitute a systematic approach to improving country-level IEC.

47. Arab States and Europe. A project at Al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt, continued to produce publications and IEC materials and to conduct related travelling seminars for religious leaders in the Arab region as well as in some African countries. An independent evaluation conducted in 1994 reported that this was the first large international project which dealt with population and family planning issues in the context of Islam and which endeavoured to set up an international network in the Islamic community to deal with these issues. One of the project's most important achievements was to have clarified, on the basis of the Holy Koran, the Shariah (Islamic law) and the Hadith (Muslim tradition), the position of Islam on issues of human reproduction and family planning. As a result, the resistance of religious leaders to family planning decreased while their recognition of the benefits of contraceptive use for child-spacing and for improving the health of mothers and children increased. The evaluation noted, however, the lack of involvement of the countries benefitting from the travelling seminars. Nevertheless, given the positive impact of the project and its pioneer approach to influencing religious leaders in the Muslim world with regard to population issues, the evaluation recommended further UNFPA support to Al-Azhar University so as not to lose the momentum that has been gained.

48. In Europe, the magazine *Entre Nous*, produced in collaboration with WHO-Copenhagen, has provided a forum for information exchange among reproductive health care providers, responding to the growing interest in family planning and reproductive health in the countries with economies in

transition. By providing Russian and Hungarian translations, *Entre Nous* has played a major information-education role in targeting the needs of the readership in those countries.

49. Asia and the Pacific. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) received support to strengthen the capabilities of national population information centres and networks in the region. UNESCO also received support for the Regional Clearinghouse on Population Education and Communication, which enlarged national capabilities in organizing and providing information services.

50. Latin America and the Caribbean. An innovative FAO-executed project, implemented by local NGOs or government units, depending on the country, aimed at reaching rural young people in several Central American countries, through such organizations as extension agencies and youth groups. The messages concerned reproductive health, with an emphasis on girls and young women. Although it is too early to assess the project's impact, training and workshops were successfully conducted. Work has been conducted in close association with country projects of both FAO and UNFPA in Central America as well as with local representatives of both agencies. A project component aimed at preventing drug consumption and the spread of AIDS among youngsters may be added in 1995, in collaboration with the United Nations Vienna Centre and FAO.

51. As part of efforts to enlarge the base of partners collaborating with UNFPA regional efforts to reach out to priority groups, such as young people and women, the Ibero-American Organization of Youth became a new partner in IEC and undertook the preparation of a Regional Programme of Action for the Development of Youth in Latin America, including key reproductive health themes. The Latin American Women's Press Agency (FEMPRESS) and the Latin American Women's Health Network, which have been active partners in IEC regional activities and which aim explicitly at reaching out to women's NGOs, disseminated information on gender awareness and women's empowerment. Support was also provided to the International Association of Students in Economic and Management to include population topics in its educational activities. Both before and after the ICPD, support to the Interamerican Parliamentary Group helped increase awareness of population issues among parliamentarians and journalists in the region, with excellent results.

52. Another new partnership was established with cooperative organizations in the region, with the strong support of the UNFPA/ILO TSS specialist, to include population issues in their work programmes. To this end, workshops were held for Andean and Central American groups. The project originated in a 1993 regional seminar on Cooperatives and Population organized in Costa Rica under the regional programme for Central American and some Caribbean countries. As a result, the Organization of the Cooperatives of the Americas (OCA) organized a seminar on Population and Development in the Andean subregion, in connection with the International Cooperative Summit organized in Cartagena, Colombia, in June 1994. In the OCA seminar, linkages between population and development issues and cooperatives were discussed, and a working group of cooperative representatives from Andean countries identified population activities of interest to the cooperative movement. Also, as a follow-up to the first seminar held in 1993 in Costa Rica, project proposals were developed for non-formal population education with the cooperative movement in several Central American countries, to be funded by UNFPA country programmes.

53. A project sponsored by the First Ladies of the region on prevention of adolescent pregnancy received the highest political support in the eight countries where it was undertaken. Implemented by local NGOs or government units, the project will permit each of the countries to benefit from the experiences of the others.

C. Population data collection and analysis

Interregional programme

54. In population data collection and analysis, the interregional programme's objective was to address developing countries' needs for: (a) easier access to available population data; (b) easier methods to update population information; and (c) access to regional and global information for comparative purposes and for the exchange of experiences.

55. In collaboration with the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSTAT) and the Population Division, UNFPA supported the development of innovative projects in data collection and analysis. An interactive information and decision support software package -- POPMAP -- developed at UNSTAT, combines graphics, spreadsheet information and mapping capabilities in an integrated geographical database. Regional training courses were organized to promote the national use of this planning tool. The programme also supported studies assessing the applicability of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) for population and related statistical work. Activities to promote civil registration and vital statistics continue to be undertaken in cooperation with UNSTAT and the Institute for Vital Registration and Statistics.

56. In collaboration with UNSTAT, and with the participation of the Population Division, UNFPA held a Technical Support Services (TSS)/CST Workshop on Basic Data Collection and Analysis in New York, 15-20 May 1995. The workshop provided an opportunity for TSS specialists and CST advisers to examine recent developments, including a discussion of ICPD implications.

57. In the context of resource constraints and new methodological developments, a wide variety of agencies have shown increasing interest in the potential of techniques to generate programmatically useful data based on qualitative methodologies. An Expert Consultative Group Meeting on Rapid Assessment Procedures (RAPs) in Population Programmes was scheduled for July 1995, in New York, for the purpose of reviewing RAP techniques and applications, including the prospects for using RAPs to assess family planning programme effects.

58. UNFPA undertook a pilot project for the global monitoring of key indicators of reproductive health. The project, scheduled for completion in July 1995, assessed a tentative system for data collection and established a core set of indicators to be tested in six countries, from which data collection materials and standards will be produced. These efforts will assist in understanding the key dimensions of reproductive health programmes in developing countries.

Regional programmes

59. Sub-Saharan Africa. During the 1992-1995 period, relatively few activities were implemented in basic data, in part because the planned Africa Survey Programme was not initiated owing to a lack of consensus on technical and organizational matters.

60. Arab States and Europe. The 1992-1995 regional programme supported two survey programmes -- PAPCHILD and the Arab Gulf Survey on Maternal and Child Health. These surveys produced, for the first time, a nationally representative and internationally comparative set of socio-economic, demographic and health data covering the entire Arab region. Coupled with the project for strengthening the capacity of the Population Research Unit at the League of Arab States, the survey programmes helped develop national capacities and increased decision makers' awareness and commitment through training workshops and seminars. Through national seminars and debates involving policy and decision makers, these programmes had a significant impact in promoting and facilitating the formulation and implementation of multisectoral population policies and programmes in the region. As a result, nine Arab countries have formulated and adopted a comprehensive population policy with specific targets and implementation mechanisms that aim at achieving a balance between population growth and sustainable development. An independent evaluation of the PAPCHILD project in 1993 confirmed the project's beneficial effects in supporting country population programmes. It found that activities were of crucial importance to policy and decision makers. The major shortcoming was found to be the delay in publishing the survey's results. The evaluation recommended expanding the project to cover all countries of the region.

61. In Europe, UNFPA supported the Family and Fertility Survey project executed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). The survey programme developed common core and modules questionnaires used in Eastern and Central European countries to produce nationally representative and internationally comparative sets of data on fertility and family formation.

62. Asia and the Pacific. UNFPA supported the programme of the International Institute for Population Studies, which awarded diplomas in population studies to more than 70 students. Assistance was also provided for a workshop for journalists on population and the environment.

63. Latin America and the Caribbean. UNFPA supported the Centro Latinamericano de Demografica (Latin American Demographic Centre -- CELADE) in research and training, including the development of census modules and methodologies for estimating maternal and child mortality, and REDATAM, a system that works with multiple databases in order to, e.g., identify and locate populations to be served with social services. CELADE received funding for undertaking studies and conducting training, including preparatory work for the ICPD. Under UNFPA execution, additional funding was provided in 1994 for fellowships for short-term training in demographic analysis at CELADE. Annual reviews show that advances were made in the development of census modules, REDATAM, methodologies for estimating maternal and child mortality, etc. UNFPA conducted an independent evaluation in early 1995 as a basis for a revised cooperation programme. The programme will be based on the comparative advantages of CELADE vis-à-vis alternative institutions in the region or outside it, and aimed at obtaining the necessary analysis and methodological advances in the most

effective and cost-efficient manner to serve the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

64. The ILO implemented a project to strengthen governmental capacity to design and implement comprehensive population policies, aimed at the reduction of rural and urban poverty in the labour market. The ILO developed an integrated framework for developing population policies, which considers links between demographic factors, labour market characteristics and socio-economic variables in Latin American countries. National teams in the pilot countries -- Bolivia, Chile, Mexico and Panama -- carried out research to help in developing comprehensive population policies, with the ILO's technical assistance. A regional workshop was held to train the teams to use uniform research methodologies so that outcomes of national studies could be compared in regional studies.

65. As part of efforts to advance in-depth sociocultural research, the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), under the leadership of the CST adviser to whom it provides backstopping, executed a project in Costa Rica to promote inter-country cooperation in sociocultural research. Also in Central America, the Central American Commission on Population and Environment and Development under the Central American Parliament received support from, inter alia, the UNFPA CST based in Santiago, Chile, for developing a Central American Council on population and development issues.

D. Population research, training and policy development

Interregional programme

66. The specific objectives of the interregional programme in population research, training and policy development were: (a) to address the need to assist Governments, planners and policy makers of developing countries in better understanding the complex issue of the linkages between population, development and environment; (b) to improve the technical skills and enhance the capability of national staff in population in development planning; and (c) to enhance the quality of data collection and research skills of national staff.

67. Interregional activities in population research continued with the Population Division and NGOs, with specific attention to developing methodologies directly applicable to solving country-level problems. A series of research studies by the Population Division included an extensive bibliography of material pertaining to a study on excess female child mortality. In addition, a study on the family building process, with data from 15 countries, was under way.

68. Studies on international migration were conducted by the Population Division, the IOM and the ILO. The Population Division's project focused on research and analysis of data on international migration policies in selected countries, based on the extensive collection of national material. The survey report is scheduled for publication in 1996.

69. The main objective of the IOM project is to investigate the determinants of emigration by setting up a network of research institutions in developing countries for a coordinated analysis of migration

phenomena from a wide variety of settings. In connection with this project, three regional research coordinators (in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin America) and researchers at national institutions produced many research papers describing migratory movements in developing countries. This accomplishment is noteworthy because the migration literature has tended to be dominated by South-North migration from a developed-country perspective. The project also contributed significantly to the building of research capacity in institutions in several developing countries. The project has, however, not yet been able to advance understanding of the determinants of emigration beyond descriptive analyses. More in-depth studies will be undertaken in the second half of the project. Another planned activity is the organization of policy dialogues between researchers and policy makers at subregional forums. This would inform decision makers of the latest findings on emigration dynamics from this project, leading to better policies on migration. The ILO was preparing a manual with guidelines on international migration, based on a review of data collected from 22 countries, to help national institutions dealing with migration generate reliable data for migration policy analysis.

70. The Population Division, the United Nations University and several NGOs, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, The Climate Institute and the American Association for the Advancement of Science undertook research activities in population and environment at the interregional level. Support was also provided to UNSTAT for research to help developing countries evaluate their progress towards development goals.

71. Support continued to the UNFPA/Global Programme of Training in Population and Sustainable Development, which consists of a coordinated network of postgraduate training programmes in Belgium, Chile, Egypt, India and the Netherlands, and, most recently, Botswana and Morocco. In 1992-1995, the programme expanded by sponsoring 360 participants, including 156 women, from 92 developing countries. A new training component in English was established in 1993 at the Cairo Demographic Centre. In addition, the two training programmes located in Belgium and the Netherlands were transferred to the Institut National de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquee (INSEA), Rabat, Morocco, and the University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana, both of which were scheduled to begin training in 1995. The transfer of programme components from European to developing-country bases and an increase in the number of participants were recommended by a 1990 independent evaluation of the Global Programme. Other evaluation recommendations implemented during the 1992-1995 programme cycle were the emphasis given to the problem-solving approach and to practical aspects of the integration of population in development planning. The training project developed by UNFPA at the Catholic University of Louvain led the University to institute a permanent Department of Population and Development Sciences, offering master's and Ph.D. degrees in population and development. Discussions are under way at the Institute of Social Studies, the former training site in the Netherlands, about establishing similar degree programmes.

72. UNFPA implemented a number of interregional projects concerned with population research, training and policy development in the 1992-1995 programming cycle. It organized a Consultative Meeting of Economists at UNFPA headquarters, New York, 28-29 September 1992, to discuss macro-level effects of rapid population growth on economic development in developing countries. A Second Consultative Meeting of Economists was held in New York, 11-12 April 1995. The Roundtable on Population and Development Strategies, held in Bangkok, 17-19 November 1993, was organized as part

of the preparations for ICPD to explore new approaches to integrating population concerns into development planning. With the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UNFPA supported a project designed to clarify why some countries create effective population policies while similar countries do not. The report is now being completed.

Regional programmes

73. Sub-Saharan Africa. In Africa, considerable progress was achieved in regional training in demography at the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS), the Institut de Formation et de Recherche Demographiques (IFORD) and the Institut Africain de Developpement Economique et de Planification (African Institute for Economic Development and Planning -- IDEP). The former two institutions trained at least 114 persons at the master's degree or higher level during the period; the latter trained 142 at regional and 39 at subregional levels. Additionally, the Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche sur la Population pour le Developpement (The Centre for Applied Research on Population and Development -- CERPOD) was funded to conduct research on migration in the Sahel region and to provide training in MIS and population policy implementation. In the light of the increased availability of personnel trained in demography, UNFPA convened a meeting in Dakar, Senegal, in March 1994, to recommend changes in strategies for support to training in the region. It was concluded that, at the country level, UNFPA should emphasize undergraduate training while supporting advanced training in regional institutions such as RIPS, IFORD, IDEP and the Global Programme training sites.

74. Together with the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, the Government and the University of Mauritius, UNFPA supported the development of a model on population, development and environmental interrelationships that was presented at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro. The model is being tested in Cape Verde.

75. A partnership was initiated with the Organization for African Unity (OAU) aimed at continual sensitization of African Governments concerning the importance of population dynamics for development and concerning support for population programmes. Under the auspices of the OAU, an African Population Commission was established, and a Population Declaration was adopted at the 1994 OAU Summit.

76. Arab States and Europe. In preparation for the ICPD, UNFPA supported the organization of the Arab Regional Population Conference, held in Amman, Jordan, 4-8 April 1993, as well as the Maghreb Conference on Population and Development, held in Tunis, Tunisia, 7-10 July 1993. Assistance was also provided to the Follow up Committee for Arab NGOs to organize a workshop in preparation for Arab NGOs' participation in ICPD and to enable participation in the Youth Forum '94 in preparation for the ICPD.

77. UNFPA supported the Population and Research Unit of the League of Arab States in conducting a regional research programme to analyse the determinants and characteristics of international and internal migration and to study the role and status of women. Support was also provided to cover the participation of trade union leaders from North Africa in the ILO-organized workshop on the Role of the Trade Unions in Africa in the Formulation and Implementation of National Population Programmes.

78. In Europe, UNFPA supported the organization of the European Population Conference, held in Geneva, Switzerland, 23-26 March 1993. It also supported the Consultative Meeting of Countries with Economies in Transition on the ICPD, which was hosted by the Government of Hungary in Budapest, 19-20 July 1994. The regional programme continued to assist the Population Activities Unit at ECE in three major projects on the study of international migration, the dynamics of population ageing and the policy challenges of demographic maturity in the European region.

79. Asia and the Pacific. In preparation for the ICPD, UNFPA supported the organization of the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, held in Bali, Indonesia, 17-27 August 1992. Assistance was also provided for several studies in better using population data for local development planning. A study on rural-urban migration in four countries of the ESCAP region analysed trends in urbanization and, inter alia, assessed the impact of rural-urban migration on the status of women. Support was also provided for studies on the dynamics of population and environmental changes.

80. In the 1990 round of population censuses and national sample surveys, an increasing imbalance in the sex ratio at birth was noted in several South and East Asian countries, which alarmed Governments, agencies and social scientists. To address the issue, an International Symposium on Issues Related to Sex Preference for Children in the Rapidly Changing Demographic Dynamics in Asia, jointly sponsored by UNFPA and the Government of the Republic of Korea, was scheduled to be held in Seoul, 21-24 November 1995, with, among others, social scientists from Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

81. Latin America and the Caribbean. In preparation for the ICPD, UNFPA supported a regional meeting on population and development held in Mexico City in May 1993, which finalized the Latin America and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development, representing the regional position on ICPD issues. Several subregional meetings were also held before the ICPD, in San Salvador and in Port of Spain, to examine and to highlight the issues of greatest interest to these groups of countries. UNFPA contributed extensively to the regional preparations for both the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen and the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW) in Beijing, by holding briefings in countries and in New York, linking population issues and the results of the ICPD to the agendas of these two important conferences. Delegates to the preparatory committees of both conferences brought issues of reproductive health to their agendas.

82. A study on the economic return of investment in family planning and reproductive health was prepared as the basis for awareness creation among ministries of finance and budget.

E. Special programmes

Interregional programmes

83. Women, population and development. Activities in WPD supported by UNFPA in 1992-1995 were geared to continuing its efforts to ensure that women participate in all aspects of population programmes, that their concerns are reflected in proposed activities and that they benefit from the

results. Initiatives in this area were based on UNFPA's Strategy to Strengthen the Capacity of the Fund to Deal with Issues Concerning Women, Population and Development.

84. In pursuit of the strategy, the capacity of UNFPA staff has been strengthened to enable them to incorporate women's issues into population and development programmes as well as into the formulation of Programme Review and Strategy Development (PRSD) exercises. Training was provided to about 70 participants at UNFPA headquarters, and similar activities at the field level began in 1995. UNFPA also incorporated WPD training into regular training programmes, thereby furthering the mainstreaming of women's concerns.

85. UNFPA also strengthened its support for women's reproductive health and reproductive rights through a major project executed by The Population Council. This was a policy-oriented research activity, studying the relationship between gender equity, family structure and dynamics, and the achievement of reproductive choice. The research was aimed at assisting Governments and international agencies in designing and implementing policies affirmative of women, sensitive to the family's central role in resource allocation and distribution, and effective in achieving broad-based population and development goals. Three reports were produced that provide critical reviews of the relationship between gender inequality and demographic behaviour in Egypt, Ghana, India and Kenya.

86. To draw attention to some of the traditional practices that are harmful to young women and girls, a major project provided information and training materials for programmes on female circumcision. Activities included the production of training materials that could be adapted for information campaigns in several African countries; training materials for seminars aimed at target groups including women, youth, community leaders and health workers, as well as training-of-trainers seminars and workshops organized by teams in each country to test training materials locally. The evaluation of these activities has yet to be undertaken; the next cycle will address the issue.

87. UNFPA also supported activities to provide information on the status of women and the development of training materials on gender statistics to highlight the issue of women's empowerment and women's rights. In collaboration with its partners of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP) -- UNICEF, UNDP, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) -- UNFPA continued to improve statistics and indicators on women in selected countries, including the production of a manual on how to produce gender statistics.

88. Support was also provided for the development of WISTAT, which provides access to a wide range of data on social and economic issues related to women. A CD-ROM application was being developed. In addition, training was being provided in the design and use of databases in WPD. UNFPA also supported, with other donors, the second updated issue of *The World's Women 1970-1990, Trends and Statistics*, produced by UNSTAT. The volume is being expanded to include new topics, such as violence against women, reproductive health and reproductive rights.

89. Another notable activity receiving support was a research project executed by UNRISD concerning population and environmental linkages at the household and community levels. Its objectives were to investigate and document the role of women as resource users and managers of their local

environment. The project found that, in the context of population and environment, gender roles and the distribution of tasks are important because, in many societies, women are heads of households or are responsible for the daily food, firewood and other needs of the family. Therefore, it becomes essential to understand the direct toll environmental degradation takes on women's time, expenditures, caloric requirements and health, in general, and reproductive health, in particular. For the next cycle (1996-1999), efforts need to be strengthened to ensure women's active participation in population and environment programmes.

90. In keeping with the emphasis on strengthening links with NGOs, support was provided to enable representatives of several women's NGOs to participate in all major United Nations conferences, including the 1992 UNCED, the 1993 Human Rights Conference, the 1994 ICPD and the 1995 FWCW. UNFPA collaborated with women's NGOs in holding roundtables, seminars and expert group meetings for ICPD and FWCW. A member of the Inter-Agency Advisory Group on FWCW, UNFPA also focused on carrying forward the recommendations from ICPD to the FWCW, emphasizing reproductive health needs and women's empowerment. Other Fund-supported NGO projects in WPD included managerial training and the production of advocacy materials for leaders of women's NGOs.

91. Ageing and youth. In the field of ageing, UNFPA assisted the International Institute of Ageing (INIA), Malta, in the training of 267 nationals from 33 developing countries in short-term courses in gerontology. Monographs on ageing were produced by INIA in collaboration with the Comite International de Cooperation dans les Recherches Nationales en Demographie (Committee for International Cooperation in National Research in Demography -- CICRED). In 1992, the then United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development (DESD), with UNFPA support, contributed to the International Conference on Ageing, organized by San Diego State University.

92. Interregional programmes for youth included the IPPF youth-for-youth project; an FAO project for out-of-school rural youth; and a World Assembly of Youth (WAY)-sponsored international youth workshop on adolescent health for youth workers and government officials (Kuala Lumpur, March 1993).

93. South-South cooperation. Important activities for South-South cooperation were developed at the interregional level. Support was provided for a project initiated by the Government of Indonesia, with the cooperation of the Governments of Australia, Japan and the Netherlands, aimed at sharing the experience of the Indonesian family planning programme with other developing regions. The project included internships in Indonesia, Observation Study Tours (OSTs), short-term consultancies and long-term advisory services. A second activity is the launching of "The Partnership: An Initiative for South-South Collaboration" during ICPD, which was strengthened by General Assembly recognition of its importance in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action (resolution 49/128 of 16 December 1994). Activities are directed at fostering South-South cooperation networks by providing support to four countries -- Indonesia, Mexico, Thailand and Tunisia -- designated Centres of Excellence, so that these, in turn, can help others.

Regional programmes

94. Sub-Saharan Africa. Assistance was provided to CEDPA for training in management and evaluation for African women's organizations. By the end of 1995, it is expected that at least 45 women representing a variety of governmental and NGO organizations will have been trained in CEDPA's Washington, D.C.-based courses and 70 in subregional courses within Africa. An important result of that training was the creation of a network of leaders of organizations across both anglophone and francophone countries that stands ready, with some further assistance, to participate actively in population programme advocacy and services. In addition, the ongoing regional programme supported participants in the Regional Conference on Women in Dakar, Senegal; in regional seminars for women's NGOs; in ministerial consultations; and in regional workshops aimed at the development of a strategy for reaching ICPD objectives. These activities all appear to have been useful in terms of the development of strategy and the identification of new and potentially promising partners for dealing with the region's population problems. The next regional programme should focus on mobilizing these groups for effective participation in country population programmes.

95. Arab States and Europe. In the Arab States, an agreement was signed for establishing the Arab Women's Centre for Research and Training. Hosted by the Government of Tunisia, the Centre was set up with assistance from the Arab Gulf Programme for the United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND), UNDP, IPPF, the European Union and UNFPA. The Centre is not yet fully operational pending staff recruitment, which is ongoing. The establishment of women's databases in several countries was hampered by difficulty in identifying participating institutions. The regional programme also supported participants from Arab States at the Regional Conferences on Women in Amman, Jordan, and Dakar, Senegal. It also supported participants from countries with economies in transition at the high-level regional preparatory meeting for the FWCW in Vienna, Austria.

96. Asia and the Pacific. In Asia, ESCAP received support for a study on the role and status of women and major demographic variables, carried out in India, Japan, the Philippines and Thailand. JOICFP received assistance to synthesize policy research on ageing and to conduct regional seminars for policy makers, administrators and programme managers on policy needs concerning ageing and the elderly. Support was also provided to WAY to organize a workshop on population, environment and development programmes, with representatives of national youth councils from 15 countries. In addition, a regional project supported national and regional activities linking the ICPD Programme of Action to the preparations for the World Summit for Social Development and the FWCW.

97. Latin America and the Caribbean. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the entire regional programme was restructured in 1993-1994 to allow for greater participation of women and youth in NGO-led programmes in reproductive health, the prevention of teen-age pregnancy and STD/AIDS, and abortion-prevention education. Broad support to link women's reproductive rights, household violence against women, and services to populations most in need furthered the considerable expansion of the network of women's NGOs involved in UNFPA-supported activities at regional and country levels. Indigenous women's groups and women in media received renewed attention.

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